FBIS

DAILY REPORT

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LD281300 [Editorial Report]

Iran

The Arab League Council meeting in Tunis was a "failure," according to a Foreign Ministry spokesman cited by Tehran radio. He stressed that attempts at "pressure or imposition" by the United States and "reactionary Arab regimes" will not stop Iran from pursuing its goal of "final victory."

Deputy Foreign Minister Mohammed Javad Larijani told journalists in Rome that Gulf minesweeping operations by "friendly countries" may be seen as "good-will action," Rome radio reported. Larijani met with Italian Foreign Minister Giulio Andreotti. The Iranian official then went to Bonn where he was received by FRG Foreign Minister Hans-Dietrich Genscher, DPA reported 28 August, noting that they exchanged views on Gulf situation and bilateral issues. Larijani promised that Iran would continue its "mediation" for the release of the two German hostage in Lebanon, the agency added.

Oil Minister Golem Reza Aqazadeh warned that if OPEC members do not adhere to their assigned quotas, Iran will "seriously take up the matter with them," according to remarks reported by IRNA. The minister stated that the organization has been notified of Iran's view that some OPEC members have "misused the current situation."

In the area of domestic affairs, Mehdi Hashemi, former aide to Ayatollah Montazeri, was convicted of "high treason" and sentenced to death, according to a *Tehran Times* report cited by TANJUG.

Gulf Conflict

Iranian artillery destroyed a "missile launching pad," a communications center, and several weapons emplacements in the northwestern fronts, according to communique reported by IRNA. A military spokesman cited by the agency "categorically denied" that Iranian artillery fired on residential areas in Al-Basrah and Qal'at Dizah.

In remarks carried by Tehran radio, Iranian military officials disclosed that the Islamic Republic has been building various types of submarines designed "specially" for the Gulf. While noting that reconnaissance drones are produced "in large quantities," the officials revealed that "two types of aircraft" tested recently are expected to go into production "soon." It was stressed that Iran has achieved "complete defensive self-sufficiency" in most areas of military production.

Saudi Arabia

The army has been on "maximum alert" since the Mecca incident, according to an unidentified Saudi official cited by Radio Monte Carlo. The official explained that Riyadh is waiting for the establishment of a united Arab stand before severing relations with Tehran.

Libya-Chad

Aozou was "liberated" after a battle that lasted more than 2 hours, the Libyan General Command announced in a statement carried by JANA 28 August. Enemy forces were "decimated and driven away" by Libya's "courageous soldiers," the statement added.

A communique broadcast by Ndjamena radio reported that Libya carried out an air strike on Ounianga Kabir and charged that Libyan warplanes "persistently" attack northern Chad with "toxic gases and napalm bombs."

Lebanon

Streets in West Beirut and the southern suburb have been closed due to "mass demonstrations and riots," the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported 28 August. Armed rioters are committing acts of vandalism and are forcing businesses to close, the clandestine said. Beirut radio reported that demonstrations also broke out in Tripoli. According to the station, Beirut residents took to the streets to protest the "aggravation of the economic crisis amid a total stalemate of the political situation." Among the more specific complaints are the high price of staples, the decreasing value of the Lebanese pound, and the scarcity and high cost of gasoline. The demonstrators caused "considerable material damage," the radio added. Voice of Lebanon radio reported that the Bank of Lebanon has been instructed to lift the subsidy on state purchases of gasoline.

Two groups have claimed responsibility for an explosion targeted against a bus carrying Syrian soldiers to Damascus, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported. The attack, which occurred near Shtawrah in the Al-Biqa' Valley, caused more than 10 deaths, an unidentified caller told the station.

Egypt

The London-based newspaper *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* revealed that President Husni Mubarak issued a decree granting "temporary shelter" to Iraqi naval units.

Security authorities arrested 22 fundamentalists involved in attacks on a video shop and a beer truck in Al-Minya, the clandestine Radio Free Lebanon reported.

Afghanistan

According to Karachi radio, a "powerful" bomb recently caused more than 150 casualties among DRA officials attending a meeting in Jalalabad.

Information Ministers' 'Appeal' on Gulf War
JN271729 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1444 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Tunis, 27 Aug (INA) — The Arab information ministers have emphasized their solidarity with Iraq in its legitimate defense of its sovereignty, the sanctity of its soil, territorial integrity, and unity.

In an appeal they today issued at the conclusion of their deliberations, the Arab information ministers reiterated their unqualified rejection of Iran's occupation of any part of Iraqi territory. [passage omitted]

The text of the appeal follows:

Based on the resolutions issued by the Arab League Council's emergency session on 23 August 1987, the Arab Information Ministers Council viewed the continuation of the Iraq-Iran war, which has lasted for 7 years, and the destruction and human losses resulting from it with great concern during their 27-28 August session. The Council also viewed with concern the effects of the war in terms of harming innocent civilians, displacing unarmed people, draining human and material resources, engaging fraternal Iraq and preventing it from playing its pan-Arab role, and threatening security and peace in the Arab Gulf region.

The Council is convinced that the current war is continuing against the sovereignty and territory integrity of an Arab League member state and that there is an increasing probability this war will expand to threaten all of the region's states and expose them to external intervention. Based on this conviction and out of a spirit of solidarity with fraternal Iraq and the need to pool Arab and Islamic resources to face pan-Arab responsibilities, the Council asserts the following:

1. We express solidarity with Iraq in the legitimate defense of its sovereignty, the sanctity of its soil, and territorial integrity; voice support for its efforts to realize a just and comprehensive peace; and reiterate opposition to Iran's occupation of any part of Iraqi territory.

2. We voice a firm stand against all threats to the security, sovereignty, and sanctity of the territory of the Arab Gulf states; express solidarity with these states in their efforts to preserve their sovereignty and independence; and deplore Iranian threats against these states, especially the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the State of Kuwait.

3. We call for guaranteeing the freedom of navigation in the Arab Gulf's territorial waters in accordance with international law and condemn the planting of mines in these waters.

4. We denounce the acts of sabotage and the riots by Iranians during the recent hajj season — acts which desecrated the holy places and the hajj rites and undermined the safety of the pilgrimage to the holy house of God.

5. We affirm solidarity with the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and full support for the measures it has undertaken to provide a suitable atmosphere permitting the pilgrims to perform the hajj rites in safety and in a spirit of piety, preventing any harm to the sanctity of the house of God and Muslims sentiments, and rejecting any riots in the holy places that infringe on the Kingdom's security and sovereignty.

6. We denounce the policy of sabotage, acts aimed at undermining internal security, and interference in the Arab states' internal affairs.

7. We call on Iran to respond to appeals for peace and for accepting a peaceful settlement of the conflict based on the UN Charter, international law, and UN Security Council Resolution No 598.

8. We reiterate support for the State of Kuwait's measures to protect its security and territorial integrity, and to preserve its trade and economic interests.

The Council of Arab Information Ministers feel it is time the Arab voice is raised as one through the Arab media in defense of the Arab nation's basic interests and pan-Arab security, and to promote the values of Arab and Islamic history, which call for peace, justice, and progress.

Damascus on Resolutions
JN280610 Damascus Domestic Service in Arabic 0415 GMT Aug 87

[Text] Tunis — The Arab Information Ministers Council ended its meetings yesterday and issued its resolutions, recommendations, and final communique. The Council's resolutions dealt with the intensification of Arab information efforts in the international arena to serve the Arab nation's central cause. The Council also adopted the necessary measures for enhancing the steadfastness of our relatives in the occupied Arab territories and for supporting our people in southern Lebanon through the information media.

The Council praised the heroic Lebanese national resistance and adopted resolutions on confronting the Zionist-imperialist campaigns accusing the Arabs of terrorism. The Council stressed the importance of benefiting from international meetings and conferences on the level of the United Nations, the Nonaligned Movement, and the ICO to differentiate between terrorism as a condemned action and the peoples' struggle for their freedom and dignity.

The SANA correspondent in Tunis notes that the Syrian Arab delegation explained during the conference's deliberations Syria's principled stand on the Iran-Iraq war and its attempts to halt this conflict. Syria's delegation also explained Syria's role and efforts to end this war since it began. The Syrian delegation additionally outlined Syria's successful role in preventing the war from spreading to other Gulf countries.

The Syrian Arab delegation emphasized that the war should be ended through a pan-Arab strategy to be formulated by an Arab summit convened for that purpose. The Syrian delegation also reiterated Syria's rejection of the presence of imperialist fleets in Arab Gulf waters, stressing the perilous consequences for pan-Arab security.

Fatah Faces 'Critical Situation' in Lebanon

NC280902 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Aug 87 p 1

[Unattributed report: "Developments in the Situation of the Fatah Movement in Lebanon: Assassination Attempt Against the Political Official Following the Liquidation of the 'Force 17' Commanders"]

[Text] London, Tunis, Beirut, *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* — The Palestine National Liberation Movement "Fatah," the major Palestinian faction, faces a critical situation in south Lebanon. Its presence in that area is viewed as a strategic priority in the confrontation with the Zionist enemy on the one hand, and with the "Amal" group's repeated daily provocations against the Palestinian camps on the other.

The assassination of Rasim al-Ghul, commander of Force 17 in Lebanon, continues to cause controversy within the Palestinian political leadership in Tunisia and the Palestinian camps in south Lebanon. In the meantime, Abu 'Ali Shahin, Fatah political official in Lebanon, escaped an assassination attempt when unidentified gunmen opened machinegun fire on him near the 'Ayn al-Hulwah camp in the south. He was wounded in the arm as a result of the shooting.

The Palestinian leadership had earlier summoned Abu Shahin to Tunisia for interrogation because of the escalating differences within the leadership in Lebanon in the wake of the assassinations of Major Rashim al-Ghul [this August] and his predecessor, Hasan al- Haybah, last February.

Fatah Central Committee Chairman Yasir 'Arafat has appointed Mu'in Shabayitah acting commissioner for the Lebanese region, and Fathi Abu al-'Awadat as his deputy. Jamal Sulayman, commander of the "'Ayn al-Hulwah Martyrs" battalion, and a number of his aides, were referred to the Revolutionary Court on charges of assassinating Maj al-Ghul.

Informed sources believe that 'Arafat will form a new command for his movement in Lebanon to confront the current dispute among leaders and cadres. Some sources link this dispute to the existing disagreement between 'Arafat and other Palestinian factions stationed in Damascus.

It is worth noting that Abu 'Ali Shahin is a Palestinian struggler whom the [Israeli] occupation forces expelled 3 years ago for his evident anti-enemy activity in the occupied territories.

PLO Statement on Fabrications Attributed to PLO

LD271756 Algiers Voice of Palestine in Arabic 1702 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] A responsible source in the PLO stated the following:

Recently statements were distributed claiming to be issued by PLO establishments and institutions. The PLO would like to draw the attention of fraternal and friendly media organs to the fact that these false statements are fabricated by organizations hostile to the PLO and aim to harm the PLO and its Arab and international relations. We would like to stress that any statement issued by the PLO is issued through the PLO official media cadres. Therefore, we hope that the media organs will be careful and rely on the official stances of the PLO and its authorized institutions as their source of information.

Gaza Police Station Attacked 25 Aug

JN271955 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1820 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Communique issued by the spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date, place not given]

[Text] Our heroes from the Martyr Colonel Rasim al- Ghul Group operating in the occupied homeland have carried out the following daring heroic operation against the main station of the enemy police in occupied Gaza:

At 2115 hours on 25 August, the Martyr Colonel Rasim al- Ghul Group attacked the enemy police station, which was full of enemy policemen, with hand grenades. As a result, several enemy policemen were wounded. The number of wounded was not known because a curfew was imposed on the area after the operation. The police station was also heavily damaged.

Enemy reinforcements rushed to the area, combed the nearby areas, and arested many Palestinians on the pretext that they were involved in the operation.

Revolution until victory!

Israeli Military Vehicle Attacked on Hebron Road

JN272001 Baghdad Voice of the PLO in Arabic 1820 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Communique issued by the spokesman for the Palestinian Revolution Forces General Command; date, place not given]

[Text] Our heroic revolutionaries operating in the occupied homeland attacked a Zionist military vehicle yesterday with hand grenades and incendiary bombs while it was passing on Hebron road in the occupied West Bank. As a result, the vehicle was heavily damaged and its occupants were wounded.

The Zionist enemy forces besieged the area and launched a large-scale search campaign. They also arrested several Palestinians on the pretext of their involvement in the operation. Our heroic revolutionaries returned safely to base.

Revolution until victory!

Libyan Air Force Bombs Ounianga Kebir 27 Aug

AB280734 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
0530 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Excerpt] The Libyan Air Force is persistently bombing the north of our country with toxic gases and napalm bombs at the very time when African leaders have launched diplomatic campaigns aimed at finding a peaceful solution to the Chad-Libyan border dispute.

Yesterday evening, at exactly 2130 [2030 GMT], the Ounianga Kebir area was bombed by the Libyan Air Force at the very moment when Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, who is also the current OAU chairman, was in Tripoli. [passage omitted]

Wour, Bardai, Aozou Hit 28 Aug

AB281354 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1340 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Communique No 83 issued by the FANT High Command in Ndjamena on 28 August]

[Text] [Words indistinct] in the face of our courageous FANT soldiers have made the Libyan slave traders intensify their bombing of liberated towns day and night. (?Thus yesterday) 27 August 1987, Ounianga was bombed at 2130 local time [2030 GMT]. This morning, 28 August, 1987, the same town of Ounianga suffered the same bombing at 0630 local time. The same bombing raids were carried out on Wour, Bardai, and Aozou.

FANT, the Chadian people have already (?turned to) you at a time when the enemy persists in its policy of destroying our country. [words indistinct]

FANT Denies Aozou Recaptured

AB281547 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1516 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Communique No 84 issued by the FANT High Command on 28 August in Ndjamena]

[Text] The deceitful JANA press agency announced today, 28 August 1987, that the District of Aozou had been recaptured by Tripoli's expansionist forces. The FANT High Command formally denies this allegation that has a double political objective.

In fact, since he is militarily incapable of facing the valiant defenders of Chad's territorial integrity with his aggressive forces, Al-Qadhdhafi would like, first, with the current OAU chairman now in Tripoli, to influence the talks that he is expected to hold with him [Kenneth Kaunda], particularly on the Chad-Libyan war. In other words, the paranoid of Tripoli would like to make a good impression with this crude lie.

Second, as 1 September — the anniversary of the coup d'etat that brought Al-Qadhdhafi to power — is drawing near, Al-Qadhdhafi finds it necessary to announce a military victory, and any other imaginary thing to appease his fellow countrymen. He needs a theme for this anniversary speech and he wants to continue deceiving and lulling the Libyan people.

In spite of the bellicose intentions of the Libyan expansionists, and in spite of the fanciful dream announced by JANA with the heavy backing of deceptive lies, the glorious FANT are alert and are aware of the noise being made by the Libyan [words indistinct] and will be able to overcome any attack as they have done in the past.

Long live the FANT, valiant defenders of Chad, and long live a free and independent Chad.

OAU's Kaunda on Objective of Peace Mission

AB262229 Ndjamena Domestic Service in French
1845 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] OAU Chairman Kenneth Kaunda has partially achieved his mission to Ndjamena. The Zambian head of state, who is also the current chairman of the pan-African organization, and who is on a mediation tour concerning the Chad-Libyan conflict, departed Ndjamena this morning following a 1-day visit. He had previously gone to Franceville, Gabon, where he met President El Hadj Omar Bongo, the chairman of the OAU's ad hoc committee on the Chad-Libyan conflict. By traveling to the capitals directly or indirectly involved in this conflict, the current OAU chairman is determined to be fully knowledgeable about all issues concerning the Chadian-Libyan dispute. In an interview granted to the national press this morning, the Zambian head of state commented that although much progress has been made in this direction, it is too early to voice any opinion on this peace mission since he still must make visits to Tripoli and Algiers. Mr Kenneth Kaunda nonetheless termed the talks he had with President El Hadj Hissein Habre as very objective and constructive.

Here he summarizes the objectives of his mission to our correspondent Faustin Nzarbo.

[Begin recording] [Kaunda in English fading into French translation] My delegation and I were kindly received by the Chadian Government, and my talks with the Chadian head of state proceeded satisfactorily. It is too early to say which turn of events will take but I can tell you that everything went fine. The message of the OAU is to restore peace between the two sisterly countries, and I believe that they have made a good start.

[Nzarbo] Mr Chairman, you have already held talks with Presidents Omar Bongo of Gabon and Hissein Habre of Chad. Can you give us your opinion on how to settle the Chadian-Libyan dispute?

[Kaunda] I think that my position will be known only after I visit Libya [words indistinct]. Chadians think about Chad, and I must go and [word indistinct] in Libya via Algiers. Once again I thank the Chadian head of state for the useful talks we had and the warm welcome we received. [end recording]

Before he departed Ndjamena this morning for Algiers, President Kaunda was seen off at Ndjamena International Airport by

El Hadj Hissein Habre, the president of the Republic, together with the members of the cabinet, the National Consultative Council, the UNIR [National Union for Independence and Revolution] Executive Committee, the diplomatic corps, representatives of international organizations accredited to the Republic of Chad, as well as officers of the FANT.

Iraqi Naval Units Granted 'Temporary Shelter'

NC280803 London AL-SHARQ AL-AWSAT in Arabic 27 Aug 87 p 1

[Text] Cairo, *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* office — *Al-Sharq Al-Awsat* has learned that President Muhammad Husni Mubarak has approved Iraqi President Saddam Husayn's request to provide shelter for a number of Iraqi naval units in Egypt. This request was made in view of the current buildup in the Gulf region and Iran's naval supremacy and increasing activity in the Gulf.

President Mubarak has issued Republican Decree No 280 for the year 1987 according to which Egypt agrees to certain arrangements to grant Iraqi naval units temporary shelter in Egypt. The Egyptian parliament has been informed in accordance with the Constitution.

Diplomatic sources in Cairo have asserted that the aim of the Iraqi request is to protect Iraqi naval units against Iranian attacks on Iraqi ports. The request also intends to safeguard these units in light of Iran's tendency to mine Iraqi passways in the wake of its increasing naval activity in the Gulf. The sources add that Egypt's approval reflects its support for Iraq.

Fundamentalists Attack Video Shop, Beer Truck

NC280726 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] A group of fundamentalists attacked a video shop and a beer truck in Al-Minya in Egypt yesterday. Egyptian police said they have arrested 22 members of the group.

Delegation To Seek Investors on European Tour

NC271458 Cairo MENA in English 1439 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Cairo, Aug 27 (MENA) — An economic delegation, under Dr. Muhiy al-Din al-Gharib, deputy chairman of Investment Authority, left here this afternoon on a ten-day tour of Sweden, Finland and Belgium.

Before his departure, Dr. al-Gharib said that the visit, the first of its kind, aims at finding a good market for the investment enterprises in Egypt whose feasibility studies were prepared by the Authority of Investment.

Aozou Reportedly Liberated After 2-Hour Battle

LD281211 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1145 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Aug (JANA) — The General Command of the Libyan Armed Forces issued the following statement:

After having used all peaceful efforts, orders were given this morning to our courageous Armed Forces to march into Aozou village, which has been liberated. The enemy forces have been decimated and driven away in a battle that lasted more than 2 hours.

The General Command of the Libyan Arab Armed Forces greets the courageous soldiers who carried out this operation, and salutes the Libyan Arab people who bred these courageous soldiers.

Habre Gangs 'Flee' to Tibesti

LD281556 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1528 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Aozou, 28 Aug (JANA) — A JANA correspondent in Aozou has affirmed that the gangs of Habre who escaped the rout have fled to the Tibesti.

The correspondent pointed out that their commander's attempts to rescue them have failed. Those who carried out the rescue attempt have fled toward Chad.

Al-Qadhdhafi Reiterates 'All-Out Support' for Iran

LD280843 Tehran IRNA in English 0837 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Aug. 28 (IRNA) — Libyan leader Col. Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi Thursday praised the firm and revolutionary resistance of the people and Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran against the ominous schemes of the U.S. and her allies.

Speaking in a meeting with Iran's ambassador here Mohammad Kazem Khonsari, Col. al-Qadhdhafi reiterated Libya's all-out support for Iran against any foreign aggression. "Not only our hearts but our swords will be with you," he told the Iranian ambassador.

Issues of mutual interest as well as the need to further expand bilateral cooperation between the two revolutionary countries against plots of imperialism, Zionism and reaction, were also stressed in the meeting.

Al-Qadhdhafi Welcomes Zambia's Kaunda 27 Aug

LD271225 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 1158 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Excerpt] Tripoli, 27 Aug (JANA) — Kenneth Kaunda, president of the Republic of Zambia and current OAU chairman, and an accompanying delegation arrived in Tripoli at noon today on a visit to the Great Jamahiriyah.

A welcoming ceremony was held for President Kenneth Kaunda at Tripoli International Airport. The brother leader of the revolution was at the forefront of those welcoming him.

Kaunda Departs After 1-Day Visit

LD280916 Tripoli JANA in Arabic 0900 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, 28 Aug (JANA) — Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda, current OAU chairman, and the delegation accompanying him, left Tripoli this morning after visiting the Great Socialist People's Libyan Arab Jamahiriyah.

Khalil al-Wazir Makes Unannounced Visit to Tripoli

LD271418 Kuwait KUNA in English 0949 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Abu Dhabi, Aug 27 (KUNA) — Member of the Central Committee of Fatah Movement and deputy general commander of the Palestinian Revolution Forces Khalil al-Wazir "Abu Jihad", said Thursday that Al-Khatab [not further identified] has taken up his post as new representative of Palestine Liberation Organization (PLO) to Libya.

In a statement to *Al-Ittihad* newspaper, Abu Jihad said, he paid an unannounced visit to Libya on Monday where he met with leader Mu'ammar al-Qadhdhafi and discussed the Palestine and Arab developments.

During the one day visit, he denied any contacts with leaders of the Palestinian Salvation Front who were visiting Libya at the same time.

Al-Qadhdhafi Receives Telegram From Samir Ghawshah

LD261423 Tripoli JANA in English 0927 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Tripoli, Hannibal [August] 26, *Jamahiriyah News Agency* — Dr. Samir Ghawshah, secretary-general of the Palestine Popular Struggle Front, in a telegram to the leader of the revolution has stressed his organisation's support alongside the great Al-Fatih Revolution stressing his condemnation of the aggression launched against the southern borders of Great Jamahiriyah at the hands of U.S.-French puppet Habre.

This aggression, Ghawshah adds, aims at wrecking great Al-Fatih Revolution and its achievements, apart from targetting the Arab nation in a bid to disintegrate it.

Dr. Ghawshah has expressed his conviction that the great Al-Fatih revolution is capable of foiling the schemes of imperialism and scoring a victory over it everywhere.

All the progressive forces, he stresses, stand alongside Great Jamahiriyah.

Al-Mahdi Discusses Oil Investments, Rebel Movement

JN271135 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1014 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 27 Aug (SUNA) — Prime Minister al-Sadiq al-Mahdi has said that Sudan will make its decision on oil investment in September. He added that his government believes that the circumstances that led to the reduction in oil prices as well as the unstable security sitaution, both of which had obstructed the exploitation of Sudanese oil, have been removed. He said security is good in the oil regions, so the Chevron company can resume work. He added that Sudan will consider a company other than Chevron if the latter fails to operate since the country is in dire need of exploiting its oil.

On the other hand, Al-Mahdi explained in the Wednesday seminar here yesterday that the sitauation involving the rebel movement has developed in a positive direction. There are several mediation offers, which his government has welcomed. He asserted that the government is proceeding along the road to peace since the Armed Forces have taken the initiative and besieged the rebel movement on the Ethiopian border.

Burmah on Ties With Egypt, Military Situation

NC261439 Cairo MENA in Arabic 0940 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Aug (MENA) — Major General Fadlallah Burmah, Sudanese minister of state for defense, has asserted that relations between Egypt and Sudan are predestined, strategic, and beyond narrow charters and frameworks. In a statement to a MENA correspondent in Khartoum, Burmah said that words about these ties must be translated into action, because both peoples have a common destiny. He called on all officials in both countries to take action to strengthen and promote these relations within a strategic framework, free of one-upmanship, to the benefit of their fraternal peoples.

Referring to the Sudanese Armed Forces' role in implementing the emergency law, Burmah said that these forces are fulfilling their duty according to the law and supplementing police efforts. These forces have helped to control the economic situation and retrieve great quantities of hoarded food, he declared.

Asked about foreign reports concerning a military coup, Burmah said that these allusions are aimed at undermining democracy and stability in Sudan and portraying the country as unworthy of democracy. He stressed that the Sudanese people are determined and will cling to democracy. He noted that the country is now assessing its democratic course and stressed that there is greater security in Sudan than in many other countries.

Regarding the situation in the south, Burmah said that the Armed Forces are in control there and have achieved great success. There are, however, a few limited rebel operations within the guerrilla war. He denied reports by the rebel movement led by John Garang that it is holding 200 prisoners of war from the Armed Forces, saying that this figure is exaggerated. He said that the Sudanese Armed Forces fought bravely in the operation in the Jokau area, where some personnel were martyred and others withdrew. He noted that the rebels had tricked the Armed Forces, claiming to be soldiers and calling for a helicopter. When the helicopter arrived, they fired at it. He said: We still believe the best solution to the problem in the south is a peaceful one, because it is not a fight in which there can be winners and losers. We must delineate between the peace efforts we advocate and our efforts to protect the homeland and citizens, Burmah noted. To us, he said, peace is a strategic goal and an open door. We hope that the John Garang movement shares that desire for peace and a peaceful solution, so we may enter negotiations. He stated: I know a number of brothers from the south in Khartoum have moved toward negotiations with the rebel movement in Addis Ababa, but I have no details about what they have done or achieved. In conclusion, Burmah said that various ethnic tribes south of Kurdufan and West Sudan are calling for peaceful coexistence and are ready to participate in the restoration of security and stability to the region.

Al-Banna Briefs SUNA on Visit to Saudi Arabia

JN261606 Khartoum SUNA in Arabic 1420 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Khartoum, 26 Aug (SUNA) — His Majesty King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia, custodian of the two holy mosques, has expressed his readiness to devote his complete attention to Sudan's various issues. State Council Member Idris al-Banna reported this to SUNA today. He returned to Khartoum the day before yesterday after an 8-day visit to Riyadh.

Al-Banna added that his talks in Saudi Arabia dealt with ways to bolster Sudanese-Saudi relations. He went on to say that the talks also dealt with the effects of the war in southern Sudan and the efforts exerted by the government to end this war. He said that the talks also revived the influx of refugees to Sudan's eastern, western, and southern borders. Sudan's endeavors to resolve the problems of these refugees with its neighbors and to bolster its relations with these neighbors, especially the Arab Republic of Egypt, were also discussed.

Al-Banna emphasized that Saudi-Sudanese relations are firm and strong. He stated that Saudi officials reiterated their eagerness to bolster Saudi relations with Arab and Islamic states.

Al-Mirghani Receives PLO Representative in Khartoum

LD272136 Omdurman Domestic Service in Arabic 2130 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Ahmad al-Mirghani, chairman of the Head of States Council, had a meeting at his office this afternoon with Abu Rajai, representative of the PLO in Khartoum.

After the meeting, Abu Rajai said that he informed the chairman of the Head of States Council about the current situation in the besieged Palestinian refugee camps. They also discussed the situation in the Arab world and the latest developments in the Arab and international arenas. Relations between Sudan and the PLO were also reviewed.

Ahmad al-Mirghani assured the PLO representative of Sudan's support for the PLO under the leadership of Yasir 'Arafat. His excellency appealed for raising the siege around the camps. He said that citizens and international relief agencies should be

allowed to enter the camps in order to provide supplies and medicines and to help the wounded.

SPLA Radio Reports Garang Speech in Addis Ababa

EA272108 (Clandestine) Radio of the Sudanese People's Liberation Army in English 1300 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Speech by Colonel Dr John Garang de Mabior, SPLM chairman and SPLA commander in chief, on 24 August on the occasion of the signing of the SPLM-SPLA, Anyanya II, and the Sudan African parties joint statement at their meeting in Addis Ababa from 18 to 24 August — recorded]

[Text] Brother Jukria, the moderator of the conference, you have to excuse me, I will talk while stting down. We have a tradition in the army when the commander in chief speaks standing, everybody will stand up from this side. This will be kind of awkward, so I would like to very sincerely put on record my thanks on behalf of the SPLM-SPLA for the initiative that the Sudan Council of Churches took [and to] Reverend Clement Janda [secretary general of the Sudan Council of Churches], who is sitting here, and Brother Jukria, who took this initiative in order to have a gathering forum of the SPLM-SPLA and the African political parties. I would also like to thank and express appreciation to Brother Gordon Kong [commander of Anyanya II], for responding to the SPLA's invitation of Anyanya II delegates to attend this conference on their own behalf. [applause]

A lot has been reached. For the last few days you have been deliberating, discussing very difficult issues — social, political, economic issues, and problems of war and peace which concern all the Sudanese people. I also want to express a word of appreciation to Brother Eliaba Surur, the chairmen of the African parties, for the minute of silence that he asked us to observe for our fallen heroes on both the SPLM-SPLA side and the side of the Sudanese Army as well as innocent people who have gotten caught up in crossfire.

Your deliberations, your resolutions have taken place. You have persevered, discussed a lot, and I want to underline the significance again which Brother Jukria has done (?before) for the African parties and the SPLM to meet and talk. This in itself is an achievement because we have not talked for the last 4 years of the struggle. As a result, rumors, accusations, and counter-accusations must have developed, naturally with time, because when people are far away, they do not know each other. When Europe did not know Africa, they drew Africans with various shapes, and when Africa did not know Europe, they drew Europeans with various shapes. So, with time, misunderstandings abound. It is an opportunity — it has been an opportunity for us, for you — to dispel rumors about each other and against each other. As you correctly said, it has been an opportunity to educate ourselves about each other and about what we are doing. Some hotheads in the SPLA may have been misunderstanding that those inside are not doing anything, they are not doing anything. When they are struggling, they walk out of parliament several times. So, those who have gone had the bravery to run into the bush to take up arms in order to fight for peace and those who have had the bravery to stick in it [as heard] in order to fight for peace are all fighters. [applause]

You have had the opportunity to together examine the problems that afflict our country. You have developed common approaches to solve these problems. You have had the opportunity to discuss how to unite efforts in implementing various solutions to our national problems. I believe also you have had the opportunity to establish channels of communication so that the string [as heard] does not cut the connection.

Most African religions believe that once upon a time God was very near here and then some silly bird came out, and cut the rope that connected man with God. So I believe you will establish links of communication so that the forum continues — that is the forum does not end today. Some of the problems that you must have been discussing are very vital. They include the national question.

You come here as African political parties. That underlines the reality of the Sudanese situation — that Sudan is a multinational country. Any attempt by any one of these nationalities to impose itself, impose its will, impose its supremacy on the other nationalities is a disaster, or is a recipe for disaster, and this has been shown by 31 years of experience in Sudan. [applause] So, coming as African political parties — if next time the Arab political parties come, I want to assure you that we shall welcome and discuss with them [applause]... if there are such parties, because the Arab nationality has appropriated the word nation to itself, so they do not call themselves Arab parties. It would not be in place, but because there is a sense of denial almost, then you have to underline that: Look, look, we are united African parties. [laughter] This does not arise with the Arab parties and any other nationality parties that may be in the Sudan.

I believe you have deliberated on religious fundamentalism in Sudan, because again it is a multinational country and any imposition of one particular religion over the others, again is another disaster, recipe for disaster. You have deliberated on the fundamental issues of our country, on the ways these things have to be solved and you have arrived at the conclusion that the solution has to be peace. Within this, you have been discussing, I believe, things like federalism — of course many people talk about it — regionalism, local autonomy, decentralization in general.

Well, you have discussed things like secession for the south. Of course, there are some people who still think in those terms. You must have discussed the SPLM's claims for the creation of a new united Sudan, secularism, Africanism, Arabism — all these things. These problems, Brother Jukria, have been with us for a long time, and demands have been made. Requests have been made, requests for federalism, requests for regionalism, they have been made. But, traditionally, the solutions have been to rephrase — the Lord giveth and the Lord taketh — so it has always been that Khartoum giveth and Khartoum taketh. [laughter and applause]

As a politician — there is a rumor that the SPLA does not want politicians. I am a politician. But there is a rumor in Khartoum that the SPLM does not want politicians. These are military hotheads. I am a politician. I am also a soldier. As a politician, I

will take advantage of this gathering to underline again the SPLM commitment to peace, to genuine peace, that you have come for. As a humanist, I also want to underline the SPLM's commitment to peace. As a democrat, I want to underline the SPLM's commitment to peace. We have been on record on this ever since 1985, before the fall of Numayri.

So when Brother Oduho says that I am here to bless what you have done... I am on record before as saying that we do not bless what Khartoum has done. We are not priests to bless what Khartoum has done. But this is not what Khartoum did. This is what you did, we all did, and our side of the delegation had a full mandate in order to come and deliberate with you and whatever you have agreed on, you have reached. This is official as far the movement is concerned. [applause]

So, all your resolutions are binding to the movement, because our delegation was fully authorized. I wish some responsible authority in Khartoum were also present so that we could together bless the very good work that you have done. Well, do not... I will not say Al-Sadiq, because I do not know who is coming next to power in Khartoum. I believe I heard, well, a few days ago, that Al-Sadiq's third — second government — has collapsed. So, whoever is in power in Khartoum, I want to say that what these parties have done is — in Oduho's words — blessed. [applause]

As I said before, it is necessary because we do not meet often. We have not met for the last 4 or 5 years, and I do not know when we are going to meet again. Maybe some of you, next time you walk out of parliament and into the bush, will meet me there. [laughter and applause]

Islamic Tendency Movement Trial Postponed to 1 Sep

LD271051 Tunis Domestic Service in Arabic
1000 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] The State Security Court at 0915 this morning began the trial in Bardo of the elements of the Islamic Tendency Movement — 90 people, of whom 40 are on the run — under the accusation of committing criminal acts of aggression aimed at changing the regime, infringing on the dignity of the head of state and members of the government, distributing leaflets inciting the population to attack one another, defaming public order, illegally amassing weapons, membership in an illegal association, and ties with a foreign state.

The Court consists of Messrs (Hachemi Zammal), general prosecutor, as president; (Ali Chennaoui), member; (Mbarek Zarkouni), member; (Mohamed Zayani), representative of the general prosecution; and two members of the House of Representatives: Messrs (Abdallah Abaab) and (Abdelkrim Mastouri).

The accused who were under arrest were called to the bar, and the names of those on the run were read out. The defense then made a representation, which consisted of some 40 lawyers, led by the dean of the bar association, Mansour Kheffi. The session was attended by a large number of newsmen from various national and international press organs.

On the other hand, the State Security Court, chaired by Mr (Hachemi Zammal), decided to postpone the trial of the elements of the Islamic Tendency Movement until Tuesday, 1 September, at 0900, in a response to a request by the defense panel so that the latter could see the dossiers of the case.

PDRY

Foreign Minister Returns From Arab League Meeting

EA271111 Aden ANA in Arabic 1735 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Aden, 26 Aug — Comrade Dr 'Abd al-'Aziz al-Dali, member of the Political Bureau and foreign minister, returned to Aden this afternoon after attending a session of the Arab League Council held in Tunis 23-25 August 1987.

Upon his return, Dr al-Dali told ANA that the session had considered the Iraq-Iran war and the situation in the Arabian Gulf, and had adopted resolutions on ending this conflict and containing the threats posed by it. The Council had also called for implementing the Security Council resolution in this connection. He stated that the Arab League Council had expressed deep concern over the war's consequences and the threats it posed to the peoples of the two countries [Iran and Iraq] and the security of regional states, as well over the foreign intervention caused by the conflict's escalation.

Comrade al-Dali said the PDRY delegation had demanded the withdrawal of the U.S. and foreign fleets now in the Gulf since the security and the safety of the region was the concern of its peoples and states.

Concluding his statement, Comrade al-Dali pointed out that agreement had been reached on keeping the current extraordinary session open until 20 September this year for the consideration of any further developments.

He was met upon his arrival at the airport by a number of Foreign Ministry officials.

SAUDI ARABIA

Official States Army Now on 'Maximum Alert'

JN281031 Paris Radio Monte Carlo in Arabic 1000 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] In Jeddah, an official source has stated that Saudi Arabia does not fear a confrontation, even a military confrontation, with Iran. Commenting on the recent events in Mecca, he noted: The Iranians are responsible for the deaths of innocent people and should now remain silent, stop making threats, and submit to the international will represented by the latest UN Security Council resolution.

The Saudi official added: The Iranians are provoking us. Things have gone too far, and everything is now possible. Therefore, the Saudi official declared, the Army is on a state of maximum alert, particularly since early this month — that is, following the bloody events during the pilgrimage. He stated that Riyadh has not severed diplomatic relations with Tehran because it is waiting for a decision by the other Arab states so that the Arab stand will be united.

Regarding the Saudi diplomats who are still in Tehran, the Saudi official commented: Riyadh is still demanding that they be allowed to return as soon as possible. He added that Iranian diplomats in Riyadh and Jeddah will be treated in the same way as Saudi diplomats in Tehran, and that their fate will be connected with the fate of the Saudi diplomats in Iran.

UNITED ARAB EMIRATES

Al-Fujayrah Security Official on Minesweeping

JN280802 Doha QNA in Arabic 0735 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Al-Fujayrah, 28 Aug (QNA) — Colonel Sa'id Samsum, director general of the Al-Fujayrah Amirate's police department, has stated that minesweeping operations in UAE territorial waters are continuing and that no new mines have been found. In a press statement today, the police chief noted that UAE naval units and aircraft are carrying out minesweeping operations up to a distance of 6 nautical miles north of Al-Fujayrah

Col Sa'id Samsum added that the minesweeping operations will be terminated after the area has been searched. He stated that no new foreign objects have been found in the area, and that tanker traffic is proceeding normally in both UAE territorial waters and in international waters.

Communique No 2,796 Notes Combat 26-27 Aug

JN271708 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Communique No 2,796 issued by the Armed Forces General Command on 27 August]

[Text] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Our triumphant Armed Forces have continued their heroic fighting, inflicting new losses on the aggressors. The following is a roundup of their combat activities for last night and today:

1. Our valiant units in the operations theater of the I Army Corps northern sector inflicted further losses on the aggressors. They killed a number of enemy personnel and destroyed seven infantry positions. They also burned and destroyed two vehicles, destroyed two observation posts, and detonated three ammunition dumps.

2. Our courageous units on the VII Army Corps sector front engaged the enemy opposite them, killing five scoundrels and destroying one heavy machinegun. They also burned and destroyed one enemy shovel [preceding word in English] and detonated an ammunition dump.

3. Two infantry positions were destroyed and the enemy personnel stationed there were killed, one vehicle loaded with ammunition was burned and destroyed, and one ammunition dump was detonated in the III Army Corps sector east of Al-Basrah.

4. One heavy machinegun was destroyed and one enemy vehicle was also destroyed in the II Army Corps central sector.

5. To rid themselves of the terrorism of those ruling in Iran, a number of Iranian military personnel sought refuge with our forward units. They were then safely evacuated to the rear.

6. Using long-range artillery, the hateful enemy shelled residential quarters in Basra and the Bimalik [name as heard] housing complex in the village of Qal'at Dizah, wounding one civilian in Basra.

[Signed] The Armed Forces General Command, 17 August 1987

Minister Jasim Returns From Arab League Meeting

JN272015 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1940 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA) — Latif Nusayyif Jasim, minister of culture and information, returned here tonight from Tunis after heading the Iraqi delegation to the meetings of the Arab Information Ministers' Council, which concluded there today.

In an appeal issued at the conclusion of their talks, the Arab information ministers affirmed their solidarity with Iraq in its confrontation with Iranian aggression in defense of its sovereignty, territorial integrity, and unity, and also in its endeavors to bring about a just and comprehensive peace. The Arab ministers also denounced Iranian threats against the Arab Gulf states, especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, and condemned the policy of sabotage and interference in the internal affairs of the Arab states and in pan-Arab national security.

Ahvaz Liberation Front Condemns Mecca Riots

JN271222 Baghdad INA in English 1130 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, Aug 27, INA — The Arab Front for the Liberation of Ahvaz (AFLA) strongly denounced the last month Iranian regime crime in Holy Mecca, describing it as "an attempt to sow differences among Muslims."

In a telegram to King Fahd ibn 'Abd al-'Aziz of Saudi Arabia and broadcast by the clandestine radio of "The Ahvazian Revolution," monitored here today, (AFLA) said that the Iranian rulers who insist to turn down all peaceful overtures to end the war with Iraq had perpetrated a hideous crime against all Muslims by agitating riots in holy Mecca.

The telegram expressed AFLA solidarity with Saudi Arabia in confronting the criminal acts of the Iranian regime.

Zambian Prime Minister Musokotwane Continues Visit

Received by Saddam Husayn

JN261724 Baghdad Voice of the Masses in Arabic 1600 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] President Saddam Husayn has received Zambian Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane. Musokotwane conveyed to his excellency the president a verbal message from Zambian President Kenneth Kaunda concerning bilateral relations and issues of mutual interest.

The meeting was attended by Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister; the president's secretary; and Jameson Kalaluka, Zambian minister of commerce and industry.

Meets With Ibrahim

JN271129 Baghdad INA in Arabic 0930 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA) — Iraqi RCC Vice Chairman 'Izzat Ibrahim today received Zambian Prime Minister Kebby Musokotwane for a review of bilateral relations and methods of promoting them. The meeting was attended by Jameson Kalaluka, Zambian minister of commerce and industry.

Confers With Ramadan

JN271421 Baghdad INA in Arabic 1335 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Baghdad, 27 Aug (INA) — Taha Yasin Ramadan, RCC member and first deputy prime minister, met here today with Kebby Musokotwane, the Zambian prime minister.

During the meeting, they continued discussing ways of promoting all aspects of Iraqi-Zambian relations in the interest of both countries. Both sides emphasized that both countries' leaders are eager to develop bilateral cooperation ties.

Soviets Deny Peres Bid To Visit Moscow

TA270947 Tel Aviv HATZOFE in Hebrew 27 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by the political correspondent in Jerusalem]

[Text] An attempt to obtain an invitation for Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres to visit Moscow to discuss the international conference issue has failed. The attempt was made by Peres' political adviser Nimrod Novik in a meeting with Soviet diplomats in Bonn.

The Soviet representatives explained that the time is not ripe for this and that such an invitation will cause undesirable reactions in the Arab countries. They added, however, that Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze will agree to meet Peres during the UN General Assembly session in New York. It should be noted that such meetings have taken place in the past.

The meeting was held in Jerusalem after the Foreign Ministry refused to meet the heads of the Soviet consular delegation for political talks, because this delegation has been defined by the Soviets as dealing with Soviet property only.

People in the Israeli Foreign Ministry said that if this delegation is also dealing with political issues, then it is necessary that a similar Israeli delegation be stationed in Moscow, something the Soviets refuse.

On the other hand it is possible that Minister 'Ezer Weizman will receive an invitation to visit Moscow at the same time that PLO head Yasir 'Arafat will be invited. 'Arafat will visit Moscow before Weizman, but the date has not been set yet. Weizman has been described by 'Arafat as a "Haifa-born Palestinian."

Government, IAI Continue Discussions on Lavi

Rabin Denies 'Emerging Plan'

TA271355 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin says that the defense establishment has absolutely no intention of asking the Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] to develop an advanced aircraft that would go by the name Lavi-2000. He claimed that the emerging plan is to allocate $100 million to the IAI for the development of avionics technology and for the IDF alternatives, but not for the Lavi-2000.

In a speech he delivered in Tel Aviv, the defense minister said that a working plan exists, and it calls for greater IAI overhaul activity on the Phantom jets and for a slightly smaller scope of operations than exists under the current IAI setup.

Our military correspondent Shmuel Tal reports that the defense minister disclosed that 45 percent of the Kfir aircraft that have been manufactured are grounded due to a budget shortage. He said that the defense establishment had ordered the aircraft but failed to pay for them. Twenty-five Kfir's have been leased to the U.S. Navy.

Peres Discusses U.S. Participation

TA271311 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 26 Aug 87

["Exclusive" interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by political correspondent Yig'al Goren in Peres' office on 26 August — video-recorded]

[Text] [Peres] The Lavi is an extraordinary achievement but we are too small to pull off such a project on our own. Based on unofficial talks we have held so far with the United States — and, as you know, the United States believes that its money should not be invested in this project — that country will apparently be ready to tread quite a long stretch of the way with us in order to devise working plans for the future.

[Goren] In other words, is there a chance that Israel may in the future produce and develop the new F-16 model jointly with the United States?

[Peres] The answer is yes but with two qualifications. To be more precise: The United States has not yet made up its mind. However, if it does arrive at a decision, the indications we have received are that Israel will definitely be able to participate in the development and later, of course, also in the production of certain parts of the new F-16 model, which will apparently come out in the early 1990's.

[Goren] Sir, at the same time, there is a clause in your new plan stating that the United States would increase the scope of its purchases from Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. What does this mean, sir?

[Peres] This means giving more work to IAI so that we may obviate or reduce the dismissal of workers as much as possible; I hope there will be hardly any dismissals.

Were we to go ahead with the Lavi we would lose the offset purchases or $150 million of working orders from Israel. With the new plan we will try to increase the share of the work to be performed by IAI.

[Goren] How do you assess the chances that this plan may be accepted by the prime minister and approved by the Cabinet?

[Peres] I would not like to prophesize. This morning I presented the plan to the prime minister and he wants to study it. He knew in advance that I was going to examine this plan. I am glad that we have mustered a great deal of support so far. I am not saying that everybody is happy, not at all. However, this is a serious attempt to solve the economic aspect — that is, not to undertake expenditures which might jeopardize the economic program. The plan takes the military aspect into consideration and enables the General Staff to implement other alternatives. It takes the technological aspect into consideration and does not destroy IAI and its technological capability. The problem is not whether IAI engineers will find jobs in Israel. The problem is the collective ability of those IAI engineers who have made marvelous achievements so far and who, I believe, may score even greater accomplishments in the future in cooperation with the United States.

Peres Interviewed on Alternatives

TA281103 Tel Aviv Educational Television in Hebrew 1400 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Interview with Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres by Dan Margalit — live, in the studio]

[Excerpt] [Margalit] It would seem that two clauses in your plan for the Lavi hinge on U.S. approval: An increase in the proportion of F-16 parts manufactured in Israel and a share in the development of the upgraded F-16. Do we have the approval of the United States? Were you about to go to the United States to obtain such approval?

[Peres] First of all, I suggest that it should be the defense minister who goes to the United States, mainly to conduct negotiations with the Pentagon. As for me, I have been conducting informal contacts with the United States, and I would not have put forth my proposal had the reactions in the initial informal contacts not been positive.

As for the production of F-16 parts in Israel, even Zakheim said at the time that this was definitely possible; there is nothing new about that. What is new here is the plane on which a decision is apparently imminent — namely, the upgraded F-16, also known as Agile Falcon, which will apparently be coproduced by the United States, Europe, and now, perhaps, Israel as well.

[Margalit] I have already said that this will apparently cost $700 million. What portion of this $700 million do you expect Israel to get?

[Peres] At this point, reference is to one-fourth or some $150-$200 million for development. If this comes about, we will be able to use the funds we received from the United States to this end.

[Margalit] Supposing the United States accepts these two clauses, what will the IAI do with the $100 million you suggest be allotted to it out of the defense budget?

[Peres] Aircraft are born of new technologies. Look, first of all there is one thing that everyone should understand, although it is a little complicated: We are living in a world in which research and development are more important than production. In the United States, 2 percent of the labor force produces one-third of the entire world food consumption. Do you know how many Americans are currently employed in the industrial sector? Eleven percent. And do you know what the goal is? Two percent. In other words, 2 percent in agriculture, 2 percent in industry, and all the rest in research, development, communications, and education. This, then, is where the greatest emphasis should be placed.

When you ask about the technolgies for future aircraft, they comprise three main things: first, to provide the aircraft a median cruise velocity that breaks the sound barrier — which present-day aircraft do not have; second, to give the aircraft a modern shape, known as the vector effect [last two words in English], which was first devised here in the Haifa Technion. The idea is to design the aircraft as the extension of the engine, rather than to make an engine to boost another aircraft — along the lines of what we have done with our Merkava tank; and third is something in which we excel and may even be foremost in the world thanks to the IAI, and this is in the sphere of the radar signal — namely, minimizing the impression the aircraft leaves on the radar screen. This involves electronics, tolerance, and many other things.

So what does one mean when one talks about an aircraft, or specifically the Lavi? First you develop its electronic systems and its avionics. We made several mistakes in the Lavi, too, such as the development in the United States, at our expense, of an engine specifically designed for the Lavi at a cost of $350 million, all of which remained in the United States, even though the sum also includes the cost of 30 engines. Therefore, when it comes to the Israeli parts — including the radar, avionics, and new technologies — the IAI can continue with full speed ahead. [last three words in English]

[Margalit] Mr Peres, if we make progress in technological areas we may share projects involving sophisticated avionics with the United States, but you are not proposing that a specific aircraft, the Lavi-2000, take off in the year so and so?

[Peres] I do not know. After all, we are talking about the aircraft of the future. For instance, our Air Force and Israel Aircraft Industries are now talking about a pilotless plane. Suddenly, one day, this may become the aircraft of the future. We started out with small aircraft, and we may very well proceed with large aircraft.

IAI Rejects Peres Alternative

TA271904 Jerusalem Television Service in Hebrew 1800 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] The Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI] executive does not regard Shim'on Peres' proposal as a solution or appropriate alternative to such a large project as the Lavi. Our correspondent Beni Lis reports that the IAI had previously tried to reach an understanding with General Dynamics over the manufacture of F-16's but soon discovered that this would not be lucrative. The IAI maintains that the defense establishment also rejected this alternative approximately 1 year ago.

Rabin Says 'Marginal Damage' to IAI

TA280705 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Aug 87 pp 1, 15

[Report by defense correspondent Joshua Brilliant]

[Text] Tel Aviv — Defense Minister Rabin said yesterday that the proposal he had worked out with Foreign Minister Peres and Finance Minister Nisim, halting the entire Lavi programme, would cause only marginal damage to Israel Aircraft Industries [IAI]. In a strongly worded address to the Organization of Contractors and Builders here, the defense minister said he was not talking about a Lavi-2000 or about presenting IAI with the goal of developing an advanced aircraft.

Israel had suffered considerable damage with the much cheaper and simpler Kfir programme as the Air Force does not have the money to fly nearly half of those planes, he maintained.

Rabin lashed out at critics who claimed that killing the Lavi project would spell IAI's doom.

This claim has been one of IAI's main arguments, but Rabin noted that cancellation of the programme would cost IAI only 10 per cent of its production and would necessitate only a gradual dismissal of 3,000 to 4,000 of its 20,000 employees. "Can you call this a liquidation?" he asked.

The minister said that, according to IAI's figures, producing 90 Lavi's by 1997 should cost $4.8b, in addition to what has been spent so far. Rabin said there was no guarantee that this would be the bottom line.

Israel had ordered the Lavi's wings from Grumman, to be made of composite materials, but after they were supplied for the prototypes, it transpired they were no good and different wings had to be ordered. That cost the defense establishment more than $50m, Rabin told one of the organization's members.

The alternative is to buy 70 to 75 F-16s for $2b to $2.2b. Such a deal would earn IAI orders from General Dynamics to the tune of more than $400m and secure U.S. aid to cover the cost of ending the project, as well as provide new orders.

The difference between the two options boils down to $2.2b or $220m a year over the next 10 years.

The defence establishment cannot allocate that much money to finance the Lavi without further affecting the size of its other forces, Rabin said. He noted that 45 per cent of the Kfirs which the Air Force acquired from IAI have been grounded for lack of funds. Some of them were given to IAI as a present, so that it could lease them to the U.S. to simulate Mig-21's. "We're not getting a cent for their use," he said.

The IDF's financial straits have not only affected the Kfir programme. Twenty percent of its fighter pilots have been discharged and it has fired close to 5,000 career army men, 2,000 civilian workers and 7,000 employees in defence industries.

Proportionately the cuts in the Israel Military Industries won't come near those envisaged in IAI, Rabin said.

Rabin accepted the argument of an IDF aluf [major general] — whom he did not identify — who said Israel should import weapons available off-the-shelf and concentrate its effort on producing what is unique or will not be sold to Israel.

Israel won its past wars with imported weapons systems serving as the key systems, he said. Therefore Rabin defended his agreement with Peres which calls for cancelling the Lavi project but provides for several other measures to minimize the impact on the IAI.

The proposed measures provide that $100m a year of the U.S. aid spent locally will be funnelled to IAI to develop technology required to build the next generation's plane, some of the weapons the IDF considers more important to win a future war and other systems not specified so far.

The proposal also calls for Israeli participation in developing the anticipated successor to the F-16c, increasing the amount of work done here on the F-16c as well as other exports to the U.S.

The defence minister said the $100m annual allocation guaranteed that cancellation of the Lavi project would not severely harm IAI. He explained that IAI's annual production totalled more than $1b a year. This year the defense establishment is paying IAI $209m to build the Lavi (more funds are spent in the U.S.) and some $250m have been earmarked for next year.

Thus a cut of $100m — meaning some 10 per cent of its output — cannot destroy IAI, he argued.

Some of the workers will be retained to work on the technologies required for a future aircraft — even though producing one is not on the cards now. Rabin said he did not want to lose the option of teaming up with other countries to produce a plane.

He noted that Germany, Britain, Italy and Spain joined forces to produce the Tornado.

Apparently most of the $100m will go to other projects, including improving the IAF's Phantoms, in a project called Phantom 2,000. The project calls for improving the planes' avionics, installing new radar and strengthening parts of their structure. It may also include replacing their engines.

Shamir on Congress, Pentagon Stand

TA280931 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0900 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] The prime minister said he gets cables from U.S. congressmen expressing support for the Lavi, and confirmed, on the other hand, that Pentagon elements oppose the project. However, he added: Even in the United States it is understood that the decision on the matter should be made in Jerusalem. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein notes that Mr Shamir was speaking to the Canadian Senate speaker.

Peres Fears U.S. Sanction

TA281109 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Vice Prime Minister Shim'on Peres has submitted his proposal for the Lavi to the Cabinet Secretariat. Our correspondent Me'ir Einstein reports that he is the only signatory to the plan. This morning, Mr Peres met with a delegation of Israel Aircraft Industries workers and told them that in making a decision on the future of the Lavi, it is necessary to take into consideration the fear that if the project is allowed to continue, the U.S. Administration may not increase that portion of the aid to Israel that is convertible to shekels and will terminate the arrangement for offset purchases.

Sources in the foreign minister's office today rejected the attacks on Mr Peres, which they claim are colored by politicization, and called on Mr Peres' opponents to launch a substantive and comprehensive debate on the Lavi issue.

Sharon Terms Plan 'Dilettante'

TA280644 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0400 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Minister Ari'el Sharon says that Mr Peres' Lavi-2000 plan is mere eyewash and a propaganda stratagem. Speaking to our military correspondent Shmu'el Tal, Minister Sharon said that he had examined Mr Peres' plan very carefully and found it to be absolutely dilettante. According to Minister Sharon, Mr Peres' plan is not new.

Final Part of Irangate Report Submitted to U.S.

TA280518 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 0500 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Yesterday Israel conveyed the final part of the report on its involvement in the Iranian arms deal affair to the Senate committee investigating the matter. The report, which includes the testimonies of the Israelis involved in the affair, was drawn up by a committee headed by Cabinet Secretary Elyaqim Rubinstein and Reserves Major General Refa'el Vardi.

Our political correspondent 'Oded Ben-'Ami reports that the deputy chairman of the Senate committee, Senator Rudman, met in Jerusalem with the members of the Israeli team probing the Iranian affair in anticipation of Maj Gen Vardi's subpoena to present Israel's explanations of the affair.

The special prosecutor in Washington will not be permitted to review the Israeli report since he has not reached an arrangement with the Israeli Government on granting immunity to the Israelis involved in the affair.

Rabin Claims U.S. Preventing Sale of Kfirs

TA271830 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1700 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] The defense minister has disclosed that the United States has been preventing Israel from selling Kfir airplanes to several countries that are interested in them. In a lecture in Tel Aviv, Minister Rabin disclosed that the U.S. ban has persisted despite the fact that 45 percent of the Kfirs have been grounded due to budgetary constrictions.

Peres Meets With West Bank Notables on Peace Talks

TA271116 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1100 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Foreign Minister Shim'on Peres wants notables from the territories to pressure Jordan into taking a decisive step toward peace negotiations. This was the impression received by seven notables from Judaea and Samaria who met with Mr Peres today at the latter's invitation. Minister Peres also asked them to take action proving that direct negotiations are possible and that the Palestinians are willing to take part in them. Mr Peres expressed the hope that the international conference will be convened by the end of this year or early next year.

The notables replied that the PLO is their representative, but our correspondent Arye Gus received the impression that they are willing to take action to improve the Palestinians' image.

Views PLO Participation 'Positively'

TA280724 Jerusalem THE JERUSALEM POST in English 28 Aug 87 p 2

[Report by Joel Greenberg]

[Text] Foreign Minister Peres met yesterday with prominent pro-Jordanians from the territories and urged them to persuade Israeli public opinion that the Palestinians want peace.

Peres said he "views positively" conditions set by King Husayn for PLO participation in peace talks: acceptance of UN Security Council Resolutions 242 and 338, which imply recognition of Israel; renunciation of terror; and joining a combined Jordanian-Palestinian delegation.

Peres said he expected progress in the peace process following the upcoming meeting between U.S. Secretary of State George Shultz and Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze.

Among those attending yesterday's meeting at the Foreign Ministry were Nabulus businessman Sa'id Kan'an, the publisher of *Al-Nahar*, 'Uthman Halaq, the paper's editor, 'Isam al-'Anani, Jordanian MP Tahsin al-Faris, and a member of the Nabulus area committee to promote Jordan's five-year development plan in the territories, 'Umar al-Masri.

Kan'an said that Peres told the Palestinians "Israeli public opinion is in dire need of some propaganda that the Arabs in general, and Palestinians in particular, are eager for peace. You constantly have to tell the Israelis that you are for peace."

Kan'an said his group could send such a message by writing in the Israeli press, and by urging Jordanian officials and media to appeal to Israeli public opinion.

According to Israeli sources, Peres said there was a possibility of progress on the issue of Palestinian representation at peace talks. He said there were "serious and respected" Palestinians, whose names were known to the parties, who would renounce terror and could join talks as part of a joint delegation with Jordan.

In response to comments by the Palestinians, Peres said the planned Israeli water drilling project near Bethlehem would supply Arab areas before Jewish communities.

Peres said he supported the decision to establish a company in the territories which would coordinate exports to Europe. Under this arrangement, Israel would impose quality control. But

deposed Gaza Mayor Rashad al-Shawwa, contacted by phone by *The Jerusalem Post*, rejected the decision. He said Israeli quality control meant continuing interference in what should be direct exports. Al-Shawwa himself is a major citrus grower.

Rabin Alleges Syrian Army Only 'Potential Threat'

TA281135 Tel Aviv DAVAR in Hebrew 28 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by the military correspondent]

[Text] "The Syrian Army is the only potential threat to the State of Israel. However, Syria's leaders know that Syria cannot be an adversary of Israel on its own," Defense Minister Yitzhaq Rabin stated yesterday in an address before the Organization of Contractors and Builders in Tel Aviv.

The defense minister said that cracks can be discerned in the Syrian Army, stemming mainly from the budgetary strain, and that 50 percent of the Syrian budget is being channeled to security and procurement needs.

"Syria's wish to keep its ground forces at their current level has been difficult to sustain, but this has not affected the beefing-up of its Navy and Air Force. If we maintain our alertness and preparedness, we will deter them from launching a war. And if such a war is forced on us, we are certain to score an overwhelming victory," the defense minister noted.

Military Reconnaissance Satellite Allegedly Planned

TA271513 Tel Aviv HA'ARETZ in Hebrew 27 Aug 87 pp 1, 4

[Report by Ze'ev Schiff]

[Text] Next year Israel will begin planning its own independent satellite. The satellite will have applications in vital military areas, will reduce Israel's dependence on data supplied by the United States, and will increase the effectiveness of Israel's deterrence vis-a-vis the Arabs — according to a report carried by *Al-Nashra al-Istratijiyah*, an Arabic-language publication dealing with strategic issues and published in London.

The publication, considered the most prestigious of its kind in the Arab world, goes on to report: "Once again there has been talk recently about the possibility of Israel launching a satellite. It has been said that Israel will begin planning the satellite next year. The type of the satellite has not been mentioned, but an investment in such a project is likely to mean applications in military areas, notwithstanding Israel's attempts to conceal this fact."

Referring to the military advantages Israel may gain from such a satellite, the publication says: "The satellite may avail Israel with extensive capability in terms of reconnaissance, surveillance, and early warning. The question of early warning is gaining increasing prominence in Israel's military-strategic apparatus following the inauguration of sophisticated weapons by the armies of the region which considerably reduce the importance of the geographic factor and of strategic depth.

"Reference in particular is to long-range missiles that will play a major role in Arab strategic deterrence in the next decade. The satellite would enhance Israel's capability in terms of command, control, and communications on the battlefield, especially if we assume that the weapons currently used by Israel, such as the Hawkeye aircraft, were exposed to Arab counterweapons in the next few years. The satellite would enable Israel to command distant troops and rectify the course of aircraft and missiles en route to their targets deep in Arab territory."

The report goes on to say: "There is no doubt that Israel receives information gathered by U.S. satellites. However, an Israeli-planned satellite would greatly increase Israel's strength. An Israeli satellite which would gather information and reconnoiter the movements of Arab armies would help Israel decrease its dependence on data supplied by the United States and would consequently increase its freedom of action in the region."

Delegation To Meet With 'Arafat in Geneva 7 Sep

TA281144 Tel Aviv YEDI'OT AHARONOT in Hebrew 28 Aug 87 p 1

[Report by Roni Shaqed]

[Text] No less than 40 Israelis, including Knesset members [MK], will attend a meeting with PLO leader Yasir 'Arafat on 7 September in Geneva.

The meeting will take place in the framework of a UN convention of nongovernmental organizations which will deal with the Palestinian problem. 'Arafat and one of his aides, Mahmud 'Abbas alias Abu Mazin, will represent the PLO.

The Israeli delegation will include several RAKAH members, including MK's; MK Matityahu Peled and various activists from the Progressive List for Peace; a group from the Israeli committee for a dialogue with the PLO, headed by MAPAM activist Latif Dori; and a group of Israeli Arabs.

The convention will also be attended by a group of notables from the territories, including a number of East Jerusalem journalists. *Al-Fajr* editor Hanna Sinyurah, will be one of the most prominent members of the delegation from the territories.

4 Katyushas Land in Galilee; No Injuries Reported

TA271314 Jerusalem Domestic Service in Hebrew 1300 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Four Katyusha rockets fired from southern Lebanon landed in the northern Galilee this morning. No one was hurt and only very slight damage was caused. Our correspondent Hayim Hecht reports that the 107-mm missiles were launched from outside the security strip. He points out that the residents of the area continued to tend to their business as usual.

Three Fatah 'Terrorists' Squads Uncovered

TA281115 Tel Aviv IDF Radio in Hebrew 1000 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] The security forces have recently uncovered three attempts by terrorists to organize attacks under the Fatah banner in the town of Qabatiyah and in the village of Jaba' in the Janin district. These squads are suspected of having carried out 11 attacks between 1986 and 1987. The discovery also led to the seizure of weapons the squad members intended to use in additional acts.

Words, Deeds on Territories Termed 'Inconsistent'

TA271412 Jerusalem AL-NAHAR in Arabic 27 Aug 87 pp 1, 11

[Editorial: "Between Statements and Practice"]

[Text] Statements by senior Israeli officials on giving residents of the occupied territories a role involving a certain degree of government responsibility come at a time when the Israeli authorities are working on two fronts in order to achieve a goal that is totally inconsistent with the substance of these officials' statements.

On the one hand, actual Israeli practices in the occupied territories are carried out without consultation with the residents, and in many instances the impression gained by observers is that these practises run contrary to the residents' desires and aspirations.

For example, we are observing that the Israeli water authority, after receiving the green light from the Civilian Administration and the Israeli Government, is proceeding with its plans to pump water from the Bethlehem area — the same plans that have been opposed by the residents of the occupied territories and condemned by the international community as a violation of international laws and norms and as a way to exhaust water resources and wealth, thereby endangering the future of Arab generations in this land.

Another example of indifference by Israeli officials to the will of residents of the occupied territories — contrary to their public statements — relates to the direct export of agricultural produce from the West Bank and Gaza Strip to European markets. This was a matter proposed by the EEC, the aim of which was to reduce the profit margin gained by the Israeli company "Agrixco," which acts as a middleman between Arab farmers and European markets. However, what was broadcast yesterday about the Israeli Government's adoption of a "provisional arrangement" with exporters in the territories, allowing them to export their products, is no more than playing with words.

So far the Israeli Government has refused to grant this legitimate economic demand despite the positive repercussions it would have in improving the conditions of Arab farmers. This is at a time when statements and proclamations are issued on Israel's efforts to raise economic standards in the occupied territories.

These two examples, out of many, clearly prove that there is a big difference between statements and practice, and this gap confirms that what both Yitzhaq Shamir and Shim'on Peres say about giving the residents of the occupied territories a role involving responsibilities in government basically lacks seriousness and objectivity. Instead of dodging facts and realities, the Israeli authorities would do better to act in accordance with the true wishes and aspirations of the occupied territories' residents. The fragile alternatives being proposed by Israel are no more than an attempt by the government coalition to prepare the ground locally for aims to which this coalition, with its Labor and Likud parts, aspires. The most important of these aims is to eliminate the concept of an "international conference," the real beginning to a just peace that alone will ensure an improvement in the situation for the residents in all spheres.

Al-Masri Says Arab League Resolutions 'Incomplete'

JN271947 Amman Television Service in Arabic
1630 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Interview with Foreign Minister Tahir al-Masri upon his return to Amman on 26 August from the Arab foreign ministers' conference in Tunis by an unidentified television correspondent; broadcast during the "This Week's Reports" program — recorded]

[Text] [Unidentified correspondent] Mr Minister, how do you evaluate the resolutions issued by the Arab League Council at its recent meeting?

[Al-Masri] To a great extent, the resolutions were important, good, and clear. However, they are incomplete because the issue of ties between the Arab countries and Iran were not properly decided upon. However, in general we find clear sentences and points in the resolutions supporting Iraq, and denouncing and rejecting the Iranian aggression and Iran's violation of the hajj and the sanctity of the Kuwaiti and Saudi Embassies in Tehran. These resolutions strongly defend Iraq, its position, and its honorable defense of its sovereignty and territory. The resolutions were unanimous.

[Correspondent] However, if Iran does not respond to the UN Security Council resolution to stop the Iraq-Iran war, what will the resolution be at the next meeting?

[Al-Masri] It is true that some may question the importance of these resolutions if they remain mere ink on paper. They are correct, because these resolutions are to be implemented and not to remain ink on paper. The delegations should not return to their capitals in order to sit down and do nothing. Therefore, I think that during the period from now until 20 September, the Arab states will discuss the nature of next session's resolutions and the nature of relations. We will be awaiting a political resolution, which is what is important. It should not be an Arab League decision. Political decisions must be made in the Arab capitals first; then we will go to the Arab League for a political decision. This may be a difficult decision but it has become necessary due to Iranian intransigence, obvious Iranian aggression, and Iranian violations of the sovereignty of many Arab states.

[Correspondent] On the international level and the level of the Security Council, will the Arab League take action through the seven-member Arab committee?

[Al-Masri] Yes, the seven-member committee met after the emergency meeting and approved a new plan of action which will be based on contacting the capitals of the UN Security Council permanent member states. I cannot comment on the details of these tours until the concerned governments are contacted. However, I would like to remind you that the UN General Assembly will begin a meeting during the last third of next month. A large number of Arab and international foreign ministers will attend, including the Security Council member states. We will make intensive contacts there in order to follow up implementation of the second [20 September] resolution.

[Correspondent] Will the Arab League Council ask the Security Council to implement the resolution on stopping the war?

[Al-Masri] Of course, one of the important points in the recent resolutions is the need to implement all provisions of the Security Council resolution and what follows it.

Armed Forces Head, UAE Air Force Commander Meet

JN271535 Amman Domestic Service in Arabic
1500 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Field Marshal al-Sharif Zayd ibn Shakir, commander in chief of the Armed Forces, received Colonel Muhammad ibn Zayid Al Nuhayyan, UAE Air Force commander, in his office at the General Command at noon today. The meeting was attended by Staff Lieutenant General Fatahi abu Talib, Armed Forces chief of staff; the commander of the Royal Jordanian Air Force; the UAE charge d'affaires in Amman; and the UAE military attache in Amman.

AL-SHIRA Report on Possible Release of Waite

NC271543 Beirut AL-SHIRA in Arabic 24 Aug 87 p 6

[Text] A well-informed source in West Beirut has affirmed that Anglican Church envoy Terry Waite, who has been held hostage for months, will be released soon.

According to the source, Waite's release has been made possible by successful exchanges between a distinguished Lebanese figure and the kidnappers. The source says that a deal has been reached in this respect, according to which Waite will be released in exchange for 5 million dollars in ransom.

Despite the sources assertion that his information is accurate, a ministerial source in West Beirut responded to this report with the comment: "Dont count your chickens before they are hatched."

Magazine Says French Commando Sent to Beirut

NC271527 Cairo Domestic Service in Arabic 1500 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Press reports in Paris revealed today that France recently sent groups of French commandos to Beirut in preparation for an operation against the parties holding French hostages. The [Paris-based] *Al-Watan Al-Arabi* magazine reported that these groups have been deployed secretly in East and West Beirut.

AL-SHIRA Says Hizballah Escorted Glass to Hotel

NC271738 Beirut AL-SHIRA in Arabic 24 Aug 87 p 7

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] According to information available to *Al-Shira* on the release of [U.S. journalist Charles] Glass, he arrived at the Summerland Hotel wearing sports clothes at dawn on Tuesday [18 August] with three Hizballah gunmen in a BMW automobile. The gunmen got him out of the car and made sure he reached the reception desk to get a room where he could rest and take a hot bath. Because the hotel was full the receptionist had to put Glass in a hotel staff room. Glass was later transferred in a Syrian military police vehicle to Damascus under heavy guard.

Al-Shira has also learned that Tehran's release of Glass has opened the door wide for Damascus to seek the release of the two West German hostages being held by pro-Iranian groups in Lebanon. *Al-Shira* has confirmed that the two Germans will be released soon, Syria's endeavors with Tehran in this respect having been successful.

Hizballah Leader Fadlallah Discusses Hostages

JN271115 Amman AL-RA'Y in Arabic 27 Aug 87 p 17

[Interview with Shaykh Muhammad Husayn Fadlallah, spiritual leader of Lebanon's Hizballah Party by an unidentified *Al-Ra'y* correspondent; date and place not given]

[Excerpt] [Passage omitted] [Correspondent] Is there anything new on the issue of foreign hostages in Lebanon?

[Fadlallah] Actually there is nothing new because we believe that the international community, whether it is the society producing the kidnappers or the hostages, has politically frozen the issue. The issue was first raised not from a humanitarian but a political standpoint because the major powers headed by the United States wanted to exploit it in the so-called war against terrorism. Thus, the hostage issue was being fed from this angle. However, when this slogan or war against terrorism was supposed to be conducted backstage behind other issues, the hostage issue was also allowed to rest for some time before being raised during the U.S. and French elections.

[Correspondent] Does this mean the issue will be raised again during the forthcoming U.S. and French elections?

[Fadlallah] The nature of current developments gives us this impression.

[Correspondent] Is it true that a number of hostages have been transferred to Iran?

[Fadlallah] I do not have any information in this regard. I believe that these matters are raised in an ambiguous manner because there is no accurate information.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that Terry Waite is still alive?

[Fadlallah] I do not have any accurate or detailed information to make me think he is alive or dead. However, when there is no announcement that someone is dead, one would assume that he is still alive. In Islamic jurisprudence, there is a term called association. This means that if something existed before but you doubt its continuity, you have to act as though it continues to exist because certainty cannot be confirmed by doubt.

[Correspondent] This comment reinforces the belief that he is still alive?

[Fadlallah] We are speaking about a principle of jurisprudence.

[Correspondent] Do you think he is in Iran?

[Fadlallah] Since I do not have any information, I can neither deny nor confirm.

[Correspondent] You have often promised the families of the hostages to intervene and save their lives. What has been the result of your efforts in this regard?

[Fadlallah] I have not achieved any positive results in this regard. I have often affirmed that this is an international and not a domestic issue.

[Correspondent] You have said that the United States dealt with the issue from a political standpoint. Is it not possible for us, as an Islamic case, to deal with this matter from a humanitarian angle?

[Fadlallah] I am one of those who declared that kidnapping is not one of the methods of political conflict, especially if those who are kidnapped are innocent people who have nothing to do with

the ongoing conflict. However, those who practice such methods may believe that the political conflict contains major causes for this or that side and that major causes make any action they embark upon, whether humanitarian or not, measurable by its service or harm to major human issues. Therefore, some people think this way. The hot and cold wars mostly affect many innocent people as well as those directly involved. This is a matter agreed upon in wars. The number of innocent people who fall in wars is larger than others. Thus, those who practice this [kidnapping] believe that when the major powers besiege us in all our causes and leave us no room to breathe, it is normal for us to seek an escape to be able to continue in life. Perhaps the humanitarian aspect of a certain action may differ from its inhuman aspect because of its relationship to major causes or the absence of such a relationship. Therefore, those who act may find the issue inhuman in its intrinsic nature but humanitarian if employed to serve the interests of a large nation under siege on several fronts.

[Correspondent] Every now and then, we hear about negotiations between Tehran and European capitals on the hostage issue. We hear that Bonn is negotiating to release Cordes and Schmidt, that London is negotiating to release Waite and others, and that the United States, through middlemen, seeks to release Anderson, Glass, and others. What is the role of the kidnapping groups — namely, the Islamic groups such as the Islamic Jihad organization and Hizballah — in this regard?

[Fadlallah] When you want to adopt a stand on a certain issue, you view it either from a wide angle or a narrow one. In the mobile political arena in this region, and through the international game, Israel has imposed a state of siege on freedom. Israel is also imposing itself by its intrinsic power and on the basis of its strategic alliance with the United States. Moreover, when you note the presence of numerous security and political situations encircling the whole region and imposing on it many forms of sedition and war, then you may believe in some cases, as others may also beleive, that you lack the means to avoid such a siege unless you encircle the interests of other countries either by denying them free movement or by obstructing their economic, security, or other interests. We know that this is an internationally agreed upon issue, but there are differences among the countries that implement such matters through their covert organs. Moreover, there are countries that lack the covert organs to hide the game. Hence, we should consider the issue in all its aspects and not merely some of them.

[Correspondent] The Islamic Jihad organization has issued warnings that it may kill its hostages if the United States deals a blow to Iran in the Gulf. Do you have any further information on this?

[Fadlallah] I have read this report, just as others have read it, in newspapers.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that the organization may carry out its threat?

[Fadlallah] The organization did not carry out such a threat previously. However, I do not know what they are thinking of.

[Correspondent] Does this mean that you have no confidence in the Islamic Jihad's warnings?

[Fadlallah] I did not say that. I only said that I do not know what they are thinking of.

[Correspondent] Islamic Shi'ite circles have begun to issue denunciations of the kidnappings carried out by pro- Iranian groups because such operations have begun to adversely affect the interests of the Lebanese people in general and of the Shi'ites in particularly.

[Fadlallah] I do not believe that this is one of the issues we can discuss on the Lebanese or Shi'ite level.

[Correspondent] News media have begun to raise this issue.

[Fadlallah] This is part of the movement of the political game in the arena of conflict.

[Correspondent] I have read a frank report on this issue in a recent local publication.

[Fadlallah] That is true, but have you found anything concrete? Newspapers say a lot of things.

[Correspondent] How do you explain the recent rapprochement between Walid Junblatt on the one hand and Hizballah and the Islamic side in general on the other?

[Fadlallah] In my view, Junblatt handles his internal policies with an eye on foreign policy, through international and regional relations. Perhaps the nature of the atmosphere in which Junblatt is moving at this particular stage makes him feel that the Islamic side represents the decisive state that converges with his views on the question of political Maronism and with his slogans on the political question in the international arena and the confrontation with the United States and Israel.

[Correspondent] Do you believe that this rapprochement is for a particular stage, or will it be strategic?

[Fadlallah] Rapprochement between currents that have different ideological and perhaps strategic natures may be for a particular stage.

[Correspondent] It has been reported that he [Junblatt] may visit Tehran, and that Iran may hand Terry Waite over to him.

[Fadlallah] Like you, I have read such reports.

[Correspondent] There is a disturbing situation in east Sidon between Amal and the Palestinians. Do you fear that there will be a wide-scale conflagration to rekindle the camps war?

[Fadlallah] I believe that the camps war is a wound that has been opened and will heal only when the Palestinian file is completely closed. However, I do not believe that the Palestinian and Arab political circumstances that brought about the camps war — and I do not view the camps war as a Lebanese-Palestinian war or as a Shi'ite-Palestinian war but as an intra-Arab war and an Arab-Palestinian war — will allow the war to escalate. What I imagine will happen is that the war will continue at a slow pace and simmer until there are changes in the Palestinian arena that

require some Palestinian heat to speed up many of the plans put forward in the arena.

[Correspondent] You mean the internal Palestinian circle?

[Fadlallah] I mean the international and regional levels of the Palestinian question and the moves made to settle or liquidate the Palestinian cause. I believe the Lebanese crisis was created not because of Lebanese causes but so that the Palestinian question can be liquidated. Half of the Palestinian question was buried during the Israeli invasion of 1982, and the aim is to bury the other half so that the Lebanese crisis and the Palestinian question will be finished together.

[Correspondent] What in your view is the possibility of a wide-scale and "preemptive" — as Israel usually calls it — Israeli military operation against the forces that are resisting it?

[Fadlallah] I do not believe that the regional and international political conditions will allow such an invasion. Israel's experience has taught it that any such action will induce the Mujahidin to carry out further operations, and thus the invasion will add to Israel's problems. Israel now views its presence on the southern heights in the form of the militias of the surrogate Lahd as an ideal situation, through which it can activate many issues and confuse the situation. However, an invasion will confuse the regional and international situation and shuffle the cards, while the aim is to arrange the cards on the Palestinian question.

Demonstrators in Tripoli Destroy Exchange Shops

NC281200 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1120 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Our correspondent in Tripoli has informed us that there have been demonstrations in Tripoli since this morning. The demonstrators have destroyed money exchange shops, especially on Al-Tall Street.

Demonstrations, Riots Resume in W. Beirut, Suburb

NC280551 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0445 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] According to security reports, demonstrations and violent rioting resumed in West Beirut and its southern suburb this morning. The reports add that armed demonstrators, using burning tires, closed the airport road a short time ago.

Businesses Closed Down

NC280729 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0645 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Mass demonstrations and rioting have cut off most of the thoroughfares in West Beirut and the southern suburb. According to security reports, demonstrators have burned tires in most streets, particularly in the areas of Al-Awza'i, Corniche al-Mazra'ah, the airport circle, and the Kuwaiti Embassy in the capital; and Al-Ruways, Hayy al-Sullum, and Al-Murayjah in the suburb.

Armed persons are currently breaking into the businesses that opened their doors this morning, shattering windows, chasing out the employees, and closing the offices down by force.

Shots Fired at Demonstrators

NC280828 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
0800 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Strikes and demonstrations are continuing in the streets of Beirut and its southern suburb for the 2d consecutive day in protest against the high cost of living. After the airport road was cut in both directions at 0730 this morning, an estimated 200 demonstrators arrived in the Bi'r al-'Abd area at 0900 today. The marchers then continued toward Al-Musharrafiyah. Gunfire was directed at the demonstrators in an attempt to disperse them. All shops in the area have closed.

Meanwhile, burning car tires continue to close the Kuwaiti Embassy-Sultan Ibrahim Road. A large number of citizens have gathered on the road and are shouting slogans denouncing monopolists.

The Al-Awza'i Road was reopened at 1115, but traffic on it remains very light.

Group Claims Blast Targeted Against Syrian Bus

NC271911 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
0845 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] In Shtawrah seven Syrian occupation Army soldiers were injured in an explosion targeted against the bus transporting them to Damascus. Syrian forces in the area were alerted and checkpoints set up after the explosion.

A group calling itself the Lebanese Liberation Organization [Munazzamat al-Tahir al-Lubnaniyah] has claimed responsibility for this operation.

2d Group Claims Attack

NC272003 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic
1945 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Following the claim by the Lebanese Liberation Organization, another group calling itself the Long Arm Organization [Munazzamat al-Yadd al-Tailah] has also claimed responsibility for the detonation of an explosion which damaged a Syrian forces bus on the Beirut-Damascus Highway, not far from Shtawrah.

The Long Arm Organization said that 15 kg of strong explosives were hidden in a basket. A caller speaking for the organization said more than 10 people were killed in the blast.

Israeli Aircraft Fly Over Sidon, Mock Raids

NC271318 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic
1300 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Sirens were sounded when Israeli warplanes flew over Sidon and the south for 10 minutes starting at 1000 this morning.

In later air activity, four Phantom and Skyhawk warplanes carried out mock air raids over Sidon and its eastern area between 1305 and 1325. They were confronted with ground fire, and sirens were sounded.

Helicopters Fire Flares

NC271933 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Israeli helicopters flew over Sidon and the Ayn al-Hulwah Camp at approximately 2100 tonight, firing flares to illuminate positions there.

Ordnance Experts Dismantle W. Beirut Car Bomb

NC271350 Beirut Domestic Service in Arabic 1300 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] According to a security source, a detonator in a white Mercedes parked near the moustache shops in the (Karakas) area [in West Beirut] exploded at 1320 today, injuring Rabi' al-Danaf. A military expert, who was summoned immediately to examine the car, discovered that it was packed with 150 kg of TNT connected to a timer and four detonators, ready to explode. Ordnance experts dismantled the device 6 minutes before it was set to explode.

Explosion Near Syrian Checkpoint in West Beirut

NC271936 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 1845 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] An organization calling itself the Lebanese Liberation Front [Jabhat al-Tahrir al-Lubnaniyah] has claimed responsibility for an explosion in front of the Riviera Hotel, on Al-Manarah Street in West Beirut, where there is a Syrian occupation forces' checkpoint.

Resistance Forces Attack Agent, Israeli Targets

NC271511 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 1430 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Excerpts] At 1030 this morning resistance fighters detonated an explosive charge as an agent patrol was passing on the Dayr al-Siryan-'Alman Road, destroying one vehicle and killing or wounding its passengers. In the meantime, a resistance group fired four Katyusha rockets at an Agent Lahd position in 'Alman, scoring direct hits. Casualty figures are not known. [passage omitted]

At 1310 resistance men fired 82-mm mortar shells at an enemy position in 'Alman. The number of casualties is not known because of a security cordon imposed in the area.

Katyushas Hit Israeli Village

NC271309 Paris AFP in English 1255 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Tyre, Lebanon, Aug 27 (AFP) — Four Katyusha rockets fired from south Lebanon hit a northern Israeli village Thursday without causing any casualties, U.N. sources here said.

The rockets were fired at 9:30 a.m. (0630 GMT) from outside the "Security Zone" controlled by Israeli troops in south Lebanon, said sources from the United Nations Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL).

Three of the rockets landed inside the Israeli village of Metulla, which is just south of the 10-to 20-kilometer-wide (six-to 12 mile-wide) buffer zone that runs along Israel's northern border, the sources said.

The fourth rocket landed near Metulla, the sources said.

Several of the Soviet-made Katyushas, which have a 122-millimeter diameter and a range of approximately 20 kilometers (12.4 miles), were fired into northern Israel from southern Lebanon on August 9 and 10 without causing casualties or damage.

Resistance Kills 12 'Enemy' Men in Attacks

NC280717 Beirut Voice of National Resistance in Arabic 0500 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] The Amal Movement has issued a statement saying that on the anniversary of the martyrdom of Imam al-Husayn and of the disappearance of the leader [Shi'ite leader Imam Musa al-Sadr], and in loyalty to him, may God return him safe and sound, the Holy Mecca Martyrs group of the faithful resistance revolutionaries has launched [date not specified] a lightning attack on a position held by the enemy and his agents in the area of (Wadi al-Sufi). In the attack, which is the first of its kind, the group used rockets and light- and medium-caliber machineguns. Over 10 soldiers were killed in the attack. Their bodies were seen in the battlefield.

This prompted the enemy to launch a wide-scale search operation in the area of the attack and neighboring villages, where the enemy concentrated a large number of vehicles. Several helicopters were summoned to evacuate the casualties. Enemy planes also have staged mock raids over the area.

Later yesterday evening, the Islamic resistance issued a statement saying that while enemy military units were reinforcing their forces at the Al-Khazzan position at noon yesterday, in an attempt to infiltrate the outskirts of the town of Kafra, fighters of the Islamic resistance confronted them. Clashes ensued in which various types of weapons were used. Two enemy men were killed and another was wounded in the fighting. The clashes forced the remainder of the enemy force to withdraw to its positions.

Karachi Cites Reports of Jalalabad Blast Damages
BK280847 Karachi Overseas Service in English
0800 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Reports from Afghanistan say over 150 officials of the Kabul regime have been killed and injured in a powerful bomb blast in Jalalabad city last week. Most of the victims included the KHAD agents who were attending a meeting. Another report says about 50 Soviet-Kabul troops were killed in a recent operation by the mujahidin near Muhammad Agha Town in Lowgar Valley. A number of vehicles were also destroyed.

Central Committee Greets Air Force on Anniversary
LD270940 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 25 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Comrade Najib, general secretary of the PDPA Central Committee and supreme commander of the DRA Armed Forces today took part in a grand ceremony marking the anniversary of the DRA Air Force. The ceremony took place at the headquarters of the Air Force and Air Defense Force.

A BIA correspondent reports that Comrade Najib arrived at the Air Force and Air Defense Force Headquarters accompanied by Major General Muhammad Rafi, member of PDPA Central Committee Politburo and DRA minister of defense; and Brigadier General Abdul Haq Ulumi, officer in charge of the PDPA Central Committee Armed Forces Department. [passage omitted on details of the ceremony]

The report adds that after playing the DRA national anthem, Brigadier General Muhammad Eshaq Tukhi, officer in charge of the PDPA Central Committee Political Section, read the Central Committee's message. The text of the message is as follows:

The PDPA Central Committee expresses its sincere congratulations to you courageous guardians of the country's sacred aerial territory on the occasion of the DRA Air Force Day. The brave (?personnel) of the DRA Air Force and Air Defense Force have struggled and are heroically struggling to defend the gains of the April Revolution and the realization of the policy of national reconciliation. Under the present conditions of the policy of national reconciliation, which is the only solution to the fratricidal war and is being realized in our beloved homeland, great tasks lay before the DRA Air Force and Air Defense Force. Fortunately, Air Force personnel, understanding deeply the present conditions in the country, are enhancing their level of combat readiness and flight and technical duties in order to accomplish all the tasks entrusted to them. They are also displaying boundless courage and heroism by sacrificing their lives to safeguard the DRA's air space in coordingation with the efforts of the country's ground forces.

In consideration of the effective role of the DRA Air Force in defending the country's territorial integrity and national sovereignty, as well as crushing the enemies of the homeland, people, and revolution, the PDPA Central Committee has and continues to give careful attention. The manifestations of this fact are seen in equipping the DRA Air Force and Air Defense Force with modern technology and tools; training outstanding technical and flight cadres; granting material privileges for the Air Force and Air Defense force personnel, primarily flight personnel; and looking after the families of pilots and the martyrs. Awarding the title of hero to Senior Captain Sher Zamin and Hero Unit to Hunter Unit 322 on the occasion of the 1st anniversary of the Army, and honoring Helicopter Unit 377 with the same title on that occasion, as well as on the 2d anniversary of DRA Army Day, clearly testify to this attention.

The DRA Air Force personnel celebrate the festival in the context of their absolutely outstanding role in defending DRA air space; crushing the irreconcilable enemies of the people, homeland, revolution, and national reconciliation; and transporting our returnee compatriots.

The PDPA Central Committee conveys warmest wishes to the country's pilots and epic-making flight personnel. DRA Air Force personnel, courageous pilots and flight personnel: Enhance your combat morale! We wish you success and the consolidation of high military and flight discipline.

The PDPA Central Committee will henceforth pay attention to equipping and [words indistinct] of the DRA Air Force so that its struggling personnel will successfully accomplish their critical tasks. We are confident that the DRA Air Force will achieve great gains in defending the homeland, maintaining peace, and realizing the policy of national reconciliation. They will celebrate the 10th anniversary of the April Revolution with these achievements.

Let the toiling and noble people of Afghanistan be proud of the guardians of their homeland's skies! Long live our beloved homeland Afghanistan! Auspicious be the day of the DRA Air Force!

[Signed] The PDPA Central Committee

[passage omitted on further proceedings]

USSR Komsomol Construction Group Arrives 27 Aug
LD272112 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] A group of work and construction brigades of the Soviet Union Lenin Komsomol arrived in Kabul today in order to carry out some construction work.

Comrade Farid Ahmad Mazdak, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and first secretary of the DYOA Central Committee, welcomed the group at Kabul International Airport.

The Soviet Union Komsomol group will cooperate in equipping the housing construction company of Kabul.

The head of the group in an interview said that this is the first work brigade of the Soviet Union Lenin Komsomol to come to Afghanistan to carry out practical work and cooperate with Afghanistan's workers.

Gen Nazar Muhammad Visits Oruzgan, Zabol Provinces
LD272116 Kabul Domestic Service in Dari
1600 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Comrade Lieutenant General Nazar Muhammad, candidate member of the PDPA Central Committee Politburo and vice chairman of the DRA Council of Minsiters, has recently met the officials and the representatives and elders in Terinkot, the capital of Oruzgan Province.

A BIA correspondent reports that Comrade Nazar Muhammad during this meeting spoke about the national reconciliation policy and the draft constitution and gave the necessary instructions to the relevent officials on solving the environmental difficulties and problems of the people in that province.

According to another report, yesterday Comrade Nazar Muhammad visited various units and companies of the Armed Forces in Zabol Province and gave the necessary instructions to the officials on improving the soldiers' living conditions and removing shortcomings and deficiencies. He also visited the Zabol Province hospital and talked to the patients.

Sikh Head Priest Discusses Punjab Problem
BK221530 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 12 Aug 87 pp 1, 16

[From R.C. Mathur]

[Text] Chandigarh, Aug. 11 — Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] acting Jathedar [head priest] Darshan Singh said here today that he wanted to give full chance to militant Sikh youth to have their say in tackling the Punjab situation to their satisfaction. "There will be no interference from my side. Who knows, they might prove correct?"

Mr Darshan Singh made this observation when this correspondent talked to him this evening at his heavily guarded farm house in Zirakpur. Sewadars [security guards] armed with guns were on vigil at the entrance of his residence as well as inside.

Asked whether he felt relieved after "retreating" from the Akal Takht, his reply was that he was in absolute peace though lots of people had been meeting him. "I wish to remain silent on all these developments. I want to give a fair chance to these youngsters in Punjab affairs as they too have a view point. Confrontation between the elderly and youngsters is in nobody's interest".

Q: Are you giving second thoughts to your decision of retreating from the Akal Takht responsibilities?

Mr Darshan Singh (DS): Many people, including Mr Justice Ajit Singh Bains (retd), met me today and made this request. They returned satisfied with my thinking that the Sikh youth, who too have their own view point and an action programme, should be given a free hand to try their luck. We should remain absolutely away from the scene.

Q: Since you had the knowledge of their game that nothing short of formation of Khalistan would be acceptable to them why did you call the Sikh convention on August 4 at Amritsar and then after making an announcement through a resolution about forming an autonomous State in North India where the Sikhs could live with glory you retreated from the scene?

DS: I would like to remain silent. I don't want to make comment. I hope the Press would bear with me and not publish anything to embarrass my position. All I wish to say that in this convention I had invited all representative organisations of the Sikhs, including various groups of the youth, to suggest a solution.

Q: Were you under any pressure or threat from the militants?

DS: This is not correct.

Q: How much time will you give to the youngsters to show results to the satisfaction of all?

DS: It is for the Sikh qaum [community] to decide. I alone do not have to do this. In case they don't succeed they will join us and assist us later in our struggle.

Q: How will you ensure that gurdwaras [temples] are not misused and their sanctity is maintained?

DS: The youngsters, of their own, will now realise their responsibility. Then it is the duty of the SGPC [Sikh Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee — Sikh Temples Management Committee] to look after this task. It is not the duty of the Akal Takht jathedar to manage these affairs.

Q: Since you are away from the Akal Takht headquarters who will look after its affairs?

DS: The head priest of Akal Takht does this work.

Q: Did you leave any guidelines for other head priests regarding their functioning under the new change in the scene?

SD: They are all independent people. It is for them to take a decision.

Q: There are reports that some groups have said that the offerings made in the gurdwaras would henceforth be utilised in purchasing weapons and ammunition?

DS: This is the responsibility of the SGPC.

Q: But a few SGPC office-bearers have resigned.

DS: I have nothing to do with SGPC affairs.

Q: After you decided to retreat from the Akal Takht, the Unified Akali Dal [UAD] also decided to withdraw from the Sikh scene. Had they consulted you in this matter?

DS: No. UAD is a political party and this is their own decision.

Q: Mr Surjit Singh Barnala has blamed you for causing split in the rank and file of the Akali Dal (L) in the name of unity. He has also stated that you left the scene because of the threats from the militants and that you are afraid of them.

DS: They are the political people. They want to make a politicalhay out of it.

Q: Do you agree that the Sikh masses have become leaderless now and the militants have no following among them?

DS: Please don't put such questions. I have already told you that I want to remain silent at the moment.

Mr Darshan Singh had a series of meetings today with some key UAD functionaries, including Mr Sukhdev Singh Dhindsa, Mr Majitha, Mr Ajit Singh Bains and some MLAS [members of legislative assembly]. Some groups of Sikh youth had also reportedly met him.

Editorial on Sikh Chief's 'Retreat'

BK220020 Delhi THE HINDUSTAN TIMES in English 11 Aug 87 p 9

[Editorial: "Back to Village"]

[Text] The decision of the acting Akal Takht [highest seat of Sikh religion] Chief, Prof Darshan Singh, to move out of Amritsar and return to his village adds a new dimension to the Punjab situation. The man who assumed the highest Sikh clerical post with the blessings of the militants has virtually relinquished it on account of his deep differences with them. It is too much to hope that the differences will be resolved and he will return to the Takht. Evidently he had no option but to "retreat" when he realised that the militants would not listen to him. The August 4 convention confirmed his apprehensions. The militants not only rejected his appeal for a negotiated settlement of the Punjab crisis but also reiterated their demand for Khalistan. The goal of the Panth [Sikh community] as spelt out by Prof Darshan Singh was not acceptable to the militants or to the Panthic committee. It was made clear to him that they would settle for nothing short of Khalistan.

The SGPC [Shiromani Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee — Sikh temple's management committee] has rightly described the "retreat" of the Akal Takht chief as "the most unfortunate development for Sikhs, Punjab and the country as a whole". What appears to be a victory for the militants may turn out to be a disaster for the Sikh community. Not only has the line of demarcation between the militants and the moderates been further deepened but the Sikh community finds itself in a quandary. What should be its next step? Whereas it is opposed to the militants, it is not in a position to openly defy them. If Prof Darshan Singh has failed to make the militants give up violence, how will other leaders succeed in bringing about the much-needed reformation in them? In other words, the main question troubling the Sikh community is how the extremists should be tamed.

Prof Darshan Singh's decision to "retreat", however, should not be viewed as an act of defeat on his part. In a way, it is so because he has failed to make them mend their ways. But it goes to his credit that he has also made his position clear by declaring that he is opposed to the concept of Khalistan as well as the path of violence. It is hoped that more leaders will come out openly against terrorism. By leaving "the boys" to run the affairs of the Sikhs, Prof Darshan Singh has only attempted to expose them, perhaps to challenge them to show results. Most Sikhs hardly believe that the terrorists are on the right path and that they will ultimately reach their goal but they are not speaking up. It will be a blessing in disguise if Prof Darshan Singh's "retreat" helps the moderates to stand up against the militants. The need is to isolate the extremists and for that purpose, the moderates will have to assert. [sentence as published]

Congress-I Suspends 5 MP's for Antiparty Acts

BK271602 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] The Congress-I has suspended five of its MP's [members of Parliament] for their antiparty activities. They are Mr Ramdhan, Mr Rajkumar Rai, Mr Ram Pujan Patel, Mr Staya Pal Malik, and Mr Manvendra Singh. This was announced by the party general secretary, Mr G.K. Moopanar, in New Delhi today.

Ferry Service to Sri Lanka To Resume 1 Jan

BK241631 Delhi Domestic Service in English 1530 GMT 24 Aug 87

[Text] As a part of the steps to normalize relations with India, ferry service from Rameshwaram to Talai Mannar is to be resumed from 1st of January next. A suitable ship to carry 1,000 passengers will be procured by the Shipping Corporation of India for the purpose. This was decided at the meeting between the visiting Sri Lankan transport minister, Mr M.H. Mohamed, and the surface transport minister, Rajesh Pilot, in New Delhi today.

Khamene'i Sermon Lauds 'Wise' Soviet Gulf Policy

LD281226 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] On the first Friday of the month of Muharram [lunar month beginning 26 August] and on the fifth day of Government Week, millions of our Muslim compatriots and mourners of the martyrs' commander and lord of the world -- His Holiness Husayn Ebni-'Ali, peace be on him -- today held the politico-religious rites of Friday prayers throughout the country.

In Tehran today, huge crowds were present at Tehran University and the adjoining streets for Friday prayers under the imamate of Hojjat ol-Eslam val-Moslemin Khamene'i. In his Friday prayer sermon, the Tehran Friday prayer imam referred to the defeat of U.S. efforts and policies in the Persian Gulf and said: The United States hoped to organize a comprehensive attack in the Persian Gulf against Iran with the cooperation of the Eastern bloc and her Western allies. However, the Soviet Union, which at first was under the influence of this policy, very soon realized that the policy was wrong and adopted a wise policy in the Persian Gulf.

Thus, the United States faced a defeat in the first stage of its new arrogant policy in the Persian Gulf. Moreover, the presence of the U.S. fleet in the Persian Gulf -- on the pretext of escorting Kuwaiti oil tankers, at an extraordinary cost -- is being questioned in the United States as well. Everybody has realized that if the United States comes to the Persian Gulf and the Iraqi regime resumes attacks on Iranian ships, then the United States will receive an irreparable blow. The fact is that we would have observed a policy of retaliation. That is why the United States was forced to officially ask the Iraqi regime not to attack Iranian ships so long as the U.S. fleet is in the Persian Gulf. It became clear that if the Iraqi regime ignored this U.S. request, it would be the United States that would suffer the greatest loss.

The chairman of the Supreme Defense Council added: We have repeatedly declared and again state that if the objective of the U.S. presence is to allow Kuwaiti and Saudi oil to be exported freely while Iranian oil cannot be exported, then we will not allow it. No power can prevent our retaliation, whether the United States or another country.

On the repeated defeats of the arrogant U.S. policies against the Islamic Republic of Iran, the chairman of the Supreme Defense Council said: The United States was intent on dealing a blow to Iran, the Bloody Friday tragedy in Mecca. However, in fact it dealt a blow to its own hired hand, the Saudi regime. On the Bloody Friday in Mecca, the Saudi regime violated the sanctity of God's shrine. We will never remain silent about this crime. Meanwhile, the regime of the house of Al Sa'ud, which executed the foolish policy of the United States in the bloody Mecca tragedy, will never escape waves of retribution.

The Supreme Defense Council chairman cited the contradictions in the contents of the Security Council resolution and the empty nature of the Arab League foreign ministers' conference and said: Every policy that the United States has adopted in support of the Iraqi regime in the imposed war has been defeated. This will continue to be the case. All the United States' efforts in implementing these policies are intended to save the warmongering Saddam regime from the death that awaits him. Our response is the buildup of forces on the battlefields and the dealing of blows to eradicate this regime. We will maintain a presence in all the political, military, and economic fields against global arrogance. All these problems will be solved once the problem of the war is solved favorably on the battlefield.

Referring to the mobilization of combat forces from 10 to 15 Muharram [4 to 9 September], the Supreme Defense Council chairman stressed that our youth must man the entire 1,300-km frontline to eradicate the aggressor and warmongering regime of Iraq.

In his second sermon, the Friday prayer imam of Tehran commented on Government Week and lauded the glorious martyrs of the Islamic revolution, Martyr Rajai'e and Martyr Bahonar, whose martyrdom anniversary coincides with Government Week. He said: These two valuable martyrs are our teachers and guides. The memory of their lives, spent in the service of Islam and the Koran, must always be kept alive in the minds of our people.

Musavi Delivers Pre-Sermon Speech at Friday Prayers

LD281246 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] The pre-sermon speaker at today's Friday prayers in Tehran was Prime Minister Mir Hoseyn Musavi, who spoke on the occasion of Government Week. While praising the lofty status of the martyrs Rajai'e and Bahonar on their self-sacrifices in the path of the Islamic Revolution, he said: It is our duty to make sacrifices as long as the forces of arrogance and blasphemy and the owners of wealth dominate in the world. We must make efforts to serve and protect the deprived. It is a source of pride for the government today that it follows the path of self-sacrifice and serves as a collective behind Imam Khomeyni and the revolutionary ummah.

Mr Musavi then expounded on the problems and difficulties faced by the government over the last year [Persian year ended 20 March 1987]. He added: With the plots hatched by the superpowers and their puppets, the drop in the price of oil, and the disruption in the value of the dollar last year, it was predicted that with the closing of factories and the halting of economic activities, there would be some 4 million unemployed in our cities. However, through the steadfastness of the nation and the blows delivered to the enemy on the battlefronts by the fighters of Islam, and also through the correct policies adopted by the government, the plots of arrogance were neutralized and the government was able to undertake and equip the greatest operations of the war. At the top of the list in these was the "Karbala'-5" operations.

We are happy that today the government's loud voice can be heard thanks to its links with the people, its support for revolutionary slogans, its determination not to backtrack, and its support of the meek. We are also happy that it can effortlessly confront the most difficult problems. The prime minister added: Last year, 200,000 persons were drawn from the personnel of

these same executive organs as volunteers to serve on the battle-fronts. This demonstrated the changes and developments that have occurred in the system and labor force of our society's executive machinery.

Mr Musavi stressed the importance of war and said: The government intends to place all of this year's resources at the disposal of the war and to equip and see to the needs of the war operations with all its strength. We believe that the way to end all the plots in the world, including those occurring in the Persian Gulf, is to deliver a hard blow to the regime ruling over Iraq. Moreover, the military expeditions of the United States and those of arrogance's agents in the Persian Gulf, which aim at preventing us from reaching victory and halting the waves of Islam-seeking movements, will not be neutralized except through the delivery of this blow.

The prime minister added: This war belongs to all the Islamic ummah throughout the world. Knowledgeable Muslims, thirsty for liberation and freedom, have pinned their hopes on the fate of this war. For this same reason, the government also looks squarely at the issue of war. We are certain that our selfless nation will also resist all the pressures applied on us by the United States and its puppets in the region and will not surrender. We derive inspiration from the light of Islam in our determination to respond more severely to every blow inflicted on us.

Mr Musavi then referred to the Majlis elections which will take place at the start of next year [year begins 21 March 88] and said: The elections will be completely free, supervised by the people themselves and the Guardian Council. Our people should, from right now, choose revolutionary and Islamic personalities and be ready to elect the best of these to the Majlis.

The prime minister then referred to the highlights of the message of the imam of the ummah on the disavowel of pagans. He analyzed parts of these highlights and said: Even if we did not possess any evidence for the justness of our revolution, this message and this cry of the imam would provide the most comprehensive evidence that has been placed at our disposal. The deeper we go into it, we gain more information and more guidelines from it.

In connection with the imam's request to side with the meek and stand beside the deprived, Mr Musavi said: One of the things we are proud of is that we are able to say: Capitalists and accumulators of wealth are not ruling over our country. Economic sovereignty is in the hands of the deprived. The policy of the servant government is also aimed at combating the accumulators of wealth and is moving toward the elimination of poverty in society. He added: If in the last system, the key areas were in the hands of capitalists and the thousand-family regime, in the system of the Islamic Republic of Iran it is the deprived who have sovereignty. This system is a forum for the growth of talent and creativity. It provides dignity to the families of martyrs and those who are more active and make sacrifices.

The prime minister stressed: In the Islamic Revolution the voice of the meek is superior to that of the wealthy, and our enemies fear this very logic, that is, the logic that our tendencies are to move toward the bare-footed.

Va'ezi Continues Nicaragua Visit, Meets With Ortega

LD271344 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1030 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Va'ezi, director general of the Foreign Ministry's Economic Affairs Directorate, met and had talks yesterday with Nicaraguan President Daniel Ortega. In this meeting, held at the residence of the ambassador of the Islamic Republic of Iran in Nicaragua, Va'ezi delivered President Khamene'i's message to the Nicaraguan president.

He then explained the Islamic Republic of Iran's position regarding the Iraqi-imposed war against Iran, the bloody tragedy in Mecca, and the interference of foreign powers in the Persian Gulf. He also stressed the need for cooperation between the two countries in international affairs in order to confront domination-seeking powers.

Speaking at length, Ortega praised the struggle and resistance of the Iranian nation. He then expressed his sympathy over the Mecca tragedy and said: Iran and Nicaragua must endeavor to isolate U.S. imperialistic policy in the world. On the Iraqi-imposed war, the Nicaraguan president added: We support a just peace. We know that Iraq initiated the war, that she uses chemical weapons, and that she has been instrumental in allowing the United States to interfere in the Persian Gulf. The United States intends to use international forums to strike out at Iran and to condemn it, but the strategy, political provocations [as heard], and recent proposals by Iran have had a great impact on weakening the U.S. position. We support your government's decisions for the safety and security and establishment of peace in the Persian Gulf. The Islamic Republic of Iran can count on Nicaragua's cooperation for its future projects.

Ortega added: Having relations with Iran is very important for Nicaragua. We have a great deal of respect for it.

In conclusion, Mr Va'ezi said that Nicaragua's struggle against the imperialistic policy of the United States is highly valued by the Iranian nation.

Commentary Assesses Visit by PRC's Qi Huaiyuan

LD271726 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1100 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Excerpts] In the name of God, the merciful, the compassionate. Mr Qi Huaiyuan, PRC vice minister of foreign affairs, last night ended his visit to our country. He was here to deliver a message from PRC leaders to our high-ranking officials.

During his 3-day visit to Tehran, he met and held talks with several high-ranking officials, including Mr Hashemi-Rafsanjani, the speaker of the Majlis, and Mir Hoseyn Musavi, the prime minister.

In his meetings with Iranian officials, Mr Qi delivered a message from the Chinese leaders. He praised the Iranian position regarding developments in the Persian Gulf and declared that China is

against the presence of foreign forces in the region. He said that the security of the Persian Gulf must be handled by the countries of the region. [passage omitted] He stated: We expect Iran to continue to show patience.

During these meetings, Islamic Republic of Iran officials thanked the PRC leaders for their principled position on the Persian Gulf situation, and praised the goodwill, sincerity, and friendship of the Chinese leaders. [passage omitted] The Iranian officials stressed that Iran had accepted the request of the PRC leaders not to take the first step to increase tension in the region.

Iran-PRC relations: Both nations are great and powerful countries in Asia, and both have special political importance. [passage omitted] China is one of the five permanent members of the Security Council and, as China has a decisive role in the decisions of this Council, negotiations between Iran and China and their coordinated views can acquire a special position with regard to the problems confronting the Security Council. The United States and her Western allies, specifically France and England, continue to make great efforts to force other Council members to agree with their objectives. It is obvious that the United States intends to continue its aggressive policy in the region by bringing the decisions of the Security Council into line with her military buildup in the Persian Gulf.

The recent stance of the Soviet Government concerning the problems put forward by the United States at the Security Council, together with the statement by PRC vice minister of foreign affairs against the pressure of the arrogant powers — pressures for a settlement of the problems of the Persian Gulf and their military presence in this region — are all indicative of the difficulties the U.S. Government faces in forcing other members of the Security Council to support her aggressive designs.

Reflagged Kuwaiti Vessels May Include Iraqi Ships

LD271823 Tehran IRNA in English 1806 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] London, Aug. 27, IRNA — Seamen and shipping sources in London believe that at least a number of Kuwaiti vessels being reflagged may be in fact Iraqi ships and previous efforts to have other Iraqi ships registered in London had been rejected by the British Government.

"We strongly suspect that some of the Kuwaiti tankers seeking registration now are in fact Iraqi tankers," spokesman for the National Union of Seamen Mike Gibson said Thursday. He explained that it was "at the beginning of its war that Iraq reflagged its vessels in Kuwait in a bid to stop them being possible Iranian targets" and felt that it was for this reason Kuwaiti vessels had subsequently been attacked.

The Kuwaiti Petroleum Company in London confirmed Wednesday that it is seeking to register the 263,000 ton crude carrier *Al-Fayha* to gain British protection but had hoped to have kept it secret. It will be the fourth Kuwaiti ship to fly the U.K. flag.

The seamen's union is furious at the government's ambiguous stance on reflagging and has written to Foreign Secretary Geoffrey Howe demanding that he reject reflagging requests from Kuwait, which it says "only casts doubts" that Britain is taking sides in the Iraqi war.

Gibson strongly disputes the government assertion that reflagging was merely an administrative matter not involving political decisions and cited that a similar request previously from Iraq had "quite properly been turned down."

"The Registrar General of Shipping is a government employee working for the Department of Transport and would have thought it well within government powers to say yes or no to any application," he said.

The London *Guardian* also quotes reports saying that the Iraqi Government as well as French companies had been halted in their attempts to reflag ships by the government demanding "unusually, indeed impossibly, high standards" to be met.

The National Union of Seamen has been joined by the National Union of Marine Aviation and Shipping Transport Officers in criticising the government's action, which has also come under heavy attack from politicians and the media at large.

Spokesman for the officer's union Andrew Linnington says that his members are also aware that "former Iraqi ships sail under Kuwaiti flags" but feels that they may be confined to vessels other than actual tankers.

Both unions have long pleaded with the government to do something about attacks on shipping in the Persian Gulf and the current lull has only confirmed their beliefs that the world powers can prevent raids by continuing to exert pressure on Iraq.

Gibson said that it was only when Iran looked like "winning the war that prompted the West to take notice."

He thought that the current military build-up was only exasperating the situation and a complete withdrawal of all foreign warships was "worthy of consideration" especially if linked with concerted diplomatic move to end attacks on shipping.

"We are contacting the International Transport Federation to canvas support for a joint initiative and ask respective trade unions in each country to put pressure on their governments to do something on a more practical level," Gibson said.

IRGC-Produced Submarines To Be Launched 'Shortly'

LD271747 Tehran IRNA in English 1700 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA — Sophisticated protoypes of various types of submarines have been manufactured in military industries affiliated to the Islamic Revolution's Guards Corps (IRGC) and will be shortly launched, announced IRGC Minister Mohsen Rafiqdust here Thursday. He also disclosed that the first Iranian-made manned-plane was successfully tested recently.

The first submarine manufactured in the self-sufficiency military industries of the IRGC was launched during the 'Shahadat' (Martyrdom) manoeuvres staged in the Persian Gulf and Gulf of

Oman two weeks ago, said Rafiqdust in a radio programme. The IRGC minister said the IRGC is able to meet all requirements of its naval forces.

The IRGC has started mass production of TOW (tube-launched, optically-tacked wire-guided) missiles and Maliutka missiles, said the minister adding it has also reached self-sufficiency in producing mini-multiple launchers, grenades, artillery pieces, and long-range missiles.

Rafiqdust concluded by saying that self-sufficiency military industries of the IRGC has achieved useful experiences in military usage of laser and optic.

KEYHAN Threatens Worldwide Retaliation

PM251103 Tehran KEYHAN in Persian 17 Aug 87 p 18

[Editorial by Seyyed Hamid Rohani: "We Will Make the World a Graveyard for the United States"]

[Excerpts] [passage omitted] Today all the problems, shortcomings, and uncertainties of the downtrodden masses can be blamed on the world-devouring Yankees who are up to their elbows in human blood. Muslim Afghans are dragged through fire and blood. Palestinians have lost their homes and have become refugees. The peoples of Iran and Iraq are burning in the imposed war of the Iraqi Ba'thists. The black people of Africa are dying of hunger. Blacks in the United States are without life's most basic comforts. The Muslims of the world are tired of being under the control of kings, shaykhs, and emirs. In a word, if the downtrodden of the world do not have independence, freedom, and justice, if they have no say in determining their own future, it is because the blood-sucking Yanks are ruling the world.

Because they have huge economic resources and control the world's finances, they have been able to drag the other superpowers along with them and, in accordance with their own aggressive policies, they have been able to move the others in line with themselves.

Although the other superpowers are no less than the United States when it comes to their world-engulfing nature, they do not have the grounds to maneuver on a global basis because they do not have the same economic resources. Therefore, they are forced to follow U.S. policies in certain areas or else fall unknowingly into the Americans' trap.

Because of the direct provocation of the United States, the Soviet Union undertook the occupation of Afghanistan. Following the Islamic Revolution, the United States discovered that Iran had slipped from its hands so it decided not to allow Iran and the Soviet Union to have normal neighborly relations. It provoked the Soviet Union, forcing it to occupy Islamic Afghanistan, thus achieving peace of mind for itself for a time. The United States knows full well that until the Soviets have a presence in Afghanistan, they cannot have normal or close relations with Iran. On the other hand, the occupation of Afghanistan has meant nothing but disgrace and defeat for the Soviets.

In recent Persian Gulf events, we saw how the United States played its card with the Soviets. It forced the Kuwaitis to ask the Soviets to support their tankers and when the Soviets accepted this offer, the road was opened for the United States to bring its armed forces into the Persian Gulf. The Soviets found out too late that they were tricked, because by that time the United States already had taken advantage of its presence in the Persian Gulf.

Of course, the Soviet Union is not always duped by the Americans. Sometimes it has no choice but to follow U.S. policies. If it chooses to move against the wishes of the United States, the least the Americans can do against that poor government is to cut off the supply of the hundreds of thousands of tons of wheat that they sell yearly to the Soviet Union, thereby putting the Soviets under economic pressure. [passage omitted]

Now that the Islamic Revolution has the mission to engage in a holy, all-out confrontation against the Great Satan, and as it is determined to turn the world into a graveyard for the Americans, with the help of God and upon orders of the imam, it is necessary to implement the following points:

1. Anti-American propaganda must be increased in a basic and deep-rooted way. All the masses and the downtrodden of the world who have been hurt by the Great Satan must be invited to Iran so that they can recall all that the Great Satan has done to them. A number of writers and scientists must compile a history of U.S. crimes and these volumes of bloody, disgraceful, crimes must be translated into all the languages of the world, to be printed and distributed for all to see.

2. The crimes of the Great Satan must be written into school books and taught so that the young generation can be educated and the next generation will be acquainted with and prepared to confront the biggest criminal.

3. There must be an all-out effort to throw the Great Satan out of the United Nations; the headquarters of this organization must be moved from New York to another country.

4. The day of Hiroshima's nuclear bombing must be recognized as a day of national mourning and "Death to America" day. Freedom-loving nations of the world must be invited to pour into the streets on this day, just like Jerusalem Day, to announce their hatred for the United States. They must burn effigies of U.S. presidents.

5. All trade with the United States must be banned and the import of U.S. goods into Muslim and other free countries of the world also must be banned.

6. There must coordinated and close relations established with the poor people of the United States, especially blacks who, because of the color of their skin, are subjected to the most cruel treatment by the palace-dwellers of the United States. Their support must be sought in the struggle against the leaders of the Black House and the power-loving minority. They must be given political, military, economic, and propaganda support. The dissatisfied and poor blacks of the United States, if organized properly, are the best and biggest dangerous internal force for

the palace-dwellers and rich capitalists of the United States and they must not be forgotten.

7. Struggle and confrontation against the Great Satan must be spread not only throughout the world, it also must be dragged into the United States and the Black House. The Great Satan, which has caused chaos throughout the world, must not be allowed to have peace and security within its own borders. This program should have been implemented sooner than this. When the U.S. spies -- the hypocrites [Mojahedin-e Khalq guerrillas] -- blew up the Islamic Republic Party headquarters in Tehran on the orders of the Great Satan, if there had been retaliation in kind and if the U.S. Republican Party headquarters had been leveled to the ground, the subsequent assassinations would not have occurred in Iran. Today, when the American Saddam, upon orders of the United States, deploys chemical weapons in an innocent Sardasht, if there is a chemical explosion next to the Black House, close to the ears of the U.S. President, not only will Saddam not repeat the same crimes, but throughout the world no criminal will undertake such actions.

8. Heroic Lebanon must not be abandoned. Many different fires must be lit against the Great Satan in various countries and there must be many Lebanons prepared for the United States.

9. U.S. embassies, representative offices, companies, and centers, as well as dwellings of Americans in Muslim and non-Muslim countries, must be identified exactly and clearly. Local Hezbollah elements must be mobilized and organized to deal blows against and to destroy these centers. They must make the world a dark and insecure place for the Great Satan.

10. The fact that Iran's funds have been frozen in the United States and not returned shows that the Yankees, despite their talk of civilization, human rights, and democracy, are nothing but pirates who understand only blood-letting, looting, and world-devouring. Therefore, American banks are not only not a safe place to keep funds, they are a trap. There must be an effort to get the independent countries to withdraw their funds from American banks.

11. Centers of military and commando training must be set up in Iran for the youth of the world to learn antiterrorist tactics. Movements and governments engaged in a struggle against the United States, directly or indirectly, must be supported militarily, politically, economically, and in terms of arms and propaganda.

12. As the occupying regime of Palestine is the strong arm of the Great Satan in the Middle East, in order to break this arm we must mobilize all the Muslim nations of the world. [passage omitted]

A global army for the liberation of Palestine must be formed in Iran. All volunteer forces who wish to fight against Zionism must be called to Iran for the necessary training in camps to be established in order to prepare for a decisive battle to liberate Palestine. With the help of God, when Palestine is liberated, the Americans' back will be broken. [passage omitted]

In the propaganda war against the Great Satan, the massacre at Mecca must be used to its fullest extent and for a long time. Mecca's Black Friday must be remembered in Shi'ite history. It must be used to move and mobilize the poor masses against the aggressors and monarchies, especially the colonial, reactionary "Wahhabis" and the Al Sa'ud clan. [passage omitted]

A history of the obscure and secretive "Wahhabi" sect must be prepared to explore its beginnings, and also the manner in which the Al Sa'ud family became slaves to the aggressors. Their treason against the Islamic countries must be detailed.

Mass media outlets, especially newspapers, must use the bloody tragedy in Mecca in the best possible way to uncover the filthy face of the United States. They must play an important role in mobilizing the Muslim masses against the United States.

It also must be noted that the holy task of struggle against the Great Satan must not mean stumbling across the path of other superpowers, knowingly or unknowingly. We must know that all the superpowers are criminal world-devouring elements. Given power, each of them would undertake the same chaos and crimes that the United States is responsible for today. We must recall the imam's advice: "America is worse than Britain, Britain is worse than America, the Soviet Union is worse than both, and each of them is worse than all of them. It is just that today we are facing the United States."

Commentary on British, French Support for U.S. Policy

LD271341 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian
1105 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Unattributed commentary: "The All-Round Support of Britain and France for Policies of the Reagan Adminstration"]

[Text] Yesterday, despite repeated ploys to cover up the extensive cooperation between London and Washington and the extent of subservience of Margaret Thatcher's government to U.S. aggressive policies, a Kuwaiti Oil Company official confirmed his company's request to reflag one of its ships in the Persian Gulf with a British flag on and thus receive military protection from London. Moreover, he openly confessed that the company had done its best to keep this request secret. However, reports by the media forced the Kuwaiti Oil Company to admit that reports on the request are correct, contrary to what the Kuwaiti Oil Company announced the previous day.

Furthermore, according to a report by the British news agency *Reuter*, the Kuwaiti Government has so far leased four ships flying the Gibraltar flag, which are protected by the British fleets. Therefore, if the recent request by the Kuwaiti Oil Company is accepted, the number of Kuwaiti ships under Britian's protection will increase to five.

The British Government tried to pretend this action was a commercial move and dissociated it from government decisions. However, to give such protection to Kuwaiti ships is no different in practical terms from Reagan's recent actions. The only difference between these two actions is the method of implementation.

The course adopted by Britain will have positive benefits to Margaret Thatcher's government. First, the protection given to Kuwaiti oil tankers is not overt. Second, at any juncture the British Government can stop escorting these ships if it deems it necessary. The British Government can reduce the possibility of internal problems.

In any case, contrary to propaganda spread by Britian and France, their support for the United States exceeds simple cooperation and support. It has turned into subservience and a following of Washington's aims and wishes. In addition to the considerable military forces Britain and France have recently dispatched to the Persian Gulf, they have tried to pressure other European countries to follow this wrong policy. However, Britain and France should consider the vulnerability of their military forces in the region, as well as the consequences of Washington's adventurism in the Persian Gulf. They should prepare themselves to answer for their devious policies to cover up the extent of their allegience and subservience to the wishes of the Reagan administration. It does not appear that the European nations would want their military, economic, and manpower facilities to be expended on implementing aggressive policies, should they learn the true facts of the situation. The least consequence of such action would be no better than the fate of the multinational forces in Lebanon.

The U.S. Defense Department recently announced that the wages of U.S. servicemen in the Persian Gulf will be increased by $110 a month. The payment of these special wages is based on the dangerous conditions in which these personnel have to perform their duties. This expenditure on 10,000 U.S. personnel will not be considerable. However, the payment of these special wages will in fact enable the Reagan administration to ease at least some of the worries and pressures facing U.S. servicemen in the Persian Gulf, and prevent any appearance or spread of dissent among them. Yet, the low morale and realistic worries of U.S. servicemen are so deep that they cannot be eased by monetary or other incentives. Some military observers consider that the payment of special wages for dangerous conditions is a way of unofficially declaring battle stations in the Persian Gulf, and that it has strengthened the possibility of future clashes in the region.

As the Islamic Republic of Iran has reiterated, Iran refrains from creating any form of tension in the Persian Gulf or of provoking U.S. forces. However, Iran will give a severe reply to any wrongful action by U.S. forces, making them regret their actions.

Musavi Dismisses Threats of Arms Embargo

LD271721 Tehran IRNA in English 1715 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug 27, IRNA — Prime Minister Hoseyn Musavi today scoffed at superpower threats to impose an arms embargo on Iran, saying Iran is practically undergoing an arms sale boycott since the start of the seven year-old Iraqi-imposed war.

But, noted the premier, the Islamic Republic has acquired its need of arms through hard efforts, not to mention its domestic production of weapons.

Speaking in a meeting with officials in charge of war efforts of various Iranian ministries here, the premier made it clear that the only option the global arrogance now faces is the risk of being involved in a direct conflict with Iran in the Persian Gulf. The Islamic Republic is fully prepared for such a conflict, declared Musavi.

On the Iranian nation's contribution towards war efforts, Premier Musavi said that now that the Iraqi-imposed war has entered its most crucial juncture everyone should know that the war is not restricted to the fronts but is waging in all sectors of the country.

Therefore, he said, what is being done by Iranian executive offices in relation with the Iraqi-imposed war is of great importance and that all the country's resources should be mobilized for this cause.

The number of volunteer forces despatched to the battlefields last year increased 20 folds as compared to previous years, Musavi said noting that 200,000 civil servants have so far departed for the war fronts.

Interior Minister Inspects Shelters in Khorramabad

NC280535 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] The Central News Unit reports that Interior Minister Mr Mohtashemi, who has gone to Lorestan Province to attend "Government Week" activities inspected shelters built in Khorramabad.

The report states that during this visit, the Lorestan governor general submitted a report on the construction of shelters there. He disclosed that 479 shelters, of which 147 are in schools, have been built in Lorestan Province on an area of 16,000 square meters. The total cost of the shelters is 800 million rials, according to the governor general. He added that according to plan, more shelters are to be constructed on 38,000 square meters in the province.

Commentary on Arab League Foreign Ministers' Talks

LD271444 Tehran in English to Europe 1930 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Unattributed commentary]

[Text] The extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the Arab League has ended its proceedings in Tunis yesterday. This session, which was held after some delay and on the invitation of the Tunisian Government, had faced the recent resolution of the Security Council concerning the imposed war as the main issue of its agenda. Meanwhile, the incident of the bloody Mecca and the present events in the Persian Gulf, too, have been discussed by the ministers.

The foreign ministers of the Arab League first formed a seven-member committee in order to prepare the draft of a resolution, and this committee initially had suggested a plan on severance

of relations by all the Arab governments with Iran, but because of the opposition of some friends such as Syria, Libya, Algeria, Oman, and the UAE, the final statement was softened. In this resolution it has been stated that Iran should announce its final stand on UN Resolution No 598 by 20 September 1987; that is, the time when the ordinary session of the foreign ministers is to be held. And in case by that time Iran refrains from accepting the resolution, the Arab countries will negotiate with each other in order to sever relations with Iran.

In the final statement of the extraordinary session of the Arab foreign ministers in Tunis, the participants have expressed concern over what has been called as Iran's threats against the Arab states of the Persian Gulf, especially Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. Meanwhile, the recent incidents of Mecca have been strongly denounced and the members have called for the freedom of shipping in the international waters of the Persian Gulf. As is believed by political circles, the foreign ministers of the Arab states could not reach a common viewpoint in their recent session, and in other words, they have not accomplished anything so significant; and delaying the adoption of decision concerning their relations with Iran to a future session is indicative of the failure of the attempt of some of the reactionary Arab states, such as Iraq, Saudi Arabia, and Tunisia, to isolate Iran.

Meanwhile, attention should be paid to this issue that the Arab League, since the outset of the imposed war, has not even backed the resolutions and statements of the Security Council which have confirmed and condemned the deployment of chemical weapons by Iraq against the Iranian forces, or declared the Iraqi regime responsible for the city wars; and the Arab League has constantly with closed eyes supported Iraq in its aggression, something which has been done under the pretext of Arab solidarity and unity. Under the present circumstances and, especially, by having in mind the developments in the Persian Gulf, it is quite clear that the extraordinary session of the foreign ministers of the Arab Leagues has taken place within the framework of confirmation of the policies of America or of other Western governments in dispatching military fleets to the region, and the American Government has attempted, since a long time ago and while securing the military and political support of the Western governments in sending troops to the Persian Gulf, to receive similar support from the Arab states.

Meanwhile, informed political sources believe that the main problem of the Arab League has been constantly the one related to its unwillingness to take a deep look at the problems existing in the Middle East, and this same issue has caused its inaction and its decisions remaining at a standstill.

Meeting Called 'Failure'

LD271435 Tehran IRNA in English 1420 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA — A spokesman for the Foreign Ministry Thursday described the recent Arab League meet in Tunis as a "failure" adding that reactionary Arab regimes tried hard under U.S. pressure to take an aggressive stand against Iran but the rationalism and independence of vote of several Arab countries thwarted the plot.

The spokesman stressed that the Islamic Republic of Iran will not submit to any pressures and being bound to its principal stands and legal rights in defending its independence and sovereignty, will continue the war until the downfall of the aggressor regime of Saddam.

He added that Iran has clearly announced its stand towards the Security Council's resolution and such futile efforts by some reactionary governments will not deter Iran from its objective of eliminating the element responsible for tension. Final victory in the imposed war will be achieved, he added.

The spokesman said that the Hijaz [Saudi] regime brings forth such issues to justify its brutal massacre of hajj pilgrims and to distract the public opinion of Muslims. However, he added, world Muslims are well aware of its (Saudi Arabia's) anti-Islamic nature.

On the Persian Gulf developments, he said that presence of foreign powers has intensified tension and possibility of military encounter in the region.

Condemning the moves taken by Kuwait and some reactionary governments on inviting the U.S. and other foreign powers and providing facilities for their fleets in the region, he announced that the Iranian Muslim nation will stand against such plots. He also considered such moves as contrary to the interests of the Islamic ummah.

Energy Official, USSR Envoy Discuss New Dams

LD261134 Tehran IRNA in English 1100 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 26, IRNA — Technical cooperation between Iran and the Soviet Union in water and power industries was discussed in a meeting between Soviet Ambassador here Vil Boldyrev and deputy energy minister for international affairs, Mohamed Reza Adeli.

The two sides also discussed construction of two dams on Aras River. An agreement will be signed in the near future to start technical operations of the joint projects.

The joint border commission will also start work in a near future.

AL-JUMHURIYAH on 'Treaty' With USSR, Israeli Ties

JN270943 Cairo AL-JUMHURIYAH in Arabic 25 Aug 87 p 5

["A Word of Love" column by Muhammad al-Hayawan]

[Text] The plot against the Gulf is expanding. The United States must make a reassessment, for Iran has turned to the Soviet Union, and Iran's interests now fully converge with those of the Soviet Union. The smell of a plot against the Gulf has surfaced.

International sources have said that Moscow has chosen Tehran, and they will soon sign a treaty of friendship.

The most important clause of the agreement stipulates that the Gulf war will continue while Moscow strengthens Iran's military power on all levels, constructing ammunition, mines, and small arms factories in Iran. At the same time, Moscow will oppose any agreement to end the war at the Security Council or the United Nations and will oppose sanctions against Iran.

Other clauses specify that Iran will halt its support for the Muslim mujahidin in Afghanistan and stop exporting the Islamic revolution to the Islamic republics of the southern Soviet Union. In return, Moscow will buy Iran's oil and natural gas, consuming what it wants and flooding world markets with the rest so that oil prices will fall. Iran is to give the Soviet Union bases in the Persian Gulf.

The agreement poses a great threat to Pakistan and the Arab Gulf states, Saudi Arabia in particular, for Iran has designs on the holy places. The Soviet Union is exerting pressure on the Gulf states for recognition and to open its doors to Arab communists, which is rejected by Saudi Arabia, the leader of the Muslim world.

The United States has interests in the Gulf and has promised to help its friends against a communist invasion. In his latest report to Congress, Richard Murphy said U.S. interests lie in protecting the freedom of shipping in the Gulf, safeguarding the stability of the Gulf states, and halting Soviet expansion. President Reagan declared the same thing last February. Murphy said it is in the strategic interests of the United States to confront Soviet infiltration in that important part of the world.

The United States, together with Western Europe, is fulfilling its pledges and commitments in the Gulf. The situation has become very serious for the interests of the United States and its friends. At the same time, Israel is backing Iran and the Soviet Union in continuing the war. Consequently, the Zionist lobby in the U.S. Congress is opposing the U.S. presence in the Gulf. Which side will the United States back? The side of its friends and interests, or the side of Israel's interests? Only time will tell, particularly as some Arabs are still placing big question marks on U.S. friendship toward the Arabs.

The Soviet Union wants the war to continue so that it can continue to sell arms, for that is its only trade. Iran is committing suicide by halting its assistance to Muslims under Soviet occupation. The United States is still fulfilling its commitments, while Israel is exerting pressure on the United States to leave the Gulf so that the war will continue. The United States still does not understand that ever since its creation, Israel has been acting in full concert with the Soviet Union in the Middle East.

Aqazadeh Warns OPEC Members on Violating Quotas

LD271729 Tehran IRNA in English 1558 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Tabriz, East Azarbayjan Prov., Aug. 27, IRNA — Difficulties will crop up again if members of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) do not observe their assigned quotas, said Oil Minister Gholam Reza Aqazadeh, here Thursday.

Aqazadeh stressed that if the countries violating the OPEC quota continue to do so, Iran will seriously take up the matter with them.

A committee supervising and controlling oil market, price and production of OPEC members is to start its work in the next few days, said the minister.

The minister also told IRNA that some of the member countries have misused the current situation. Kuwait, Iraq and the United Arab Emirates have been caught exceeding their quotas the most during the recent developments.

Objection has made to the chairman of the organization on the issue, he noted.

Tehran Views Government's Economic Problems

NC261156 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 0430 GMT 26 Aug 87

[Central News Unit Research Group commentary]

[Text] The third day of "Government Week" has been named "Government and Economy" Day. Today we will discuss the government's economic achievements, bearing in mind the various problems it faced.

During the past year, the government faced the most difficult economic conditions since the Islamic revolution. The drop in the international price of oil that begin in late 1364 and culminated in early 1365 [early 1986] practically reduced the government's foreign exchange reserves to one-third of the former level. It was not long before this drop in income became perceptible throughout the entire economic system as a result of our national economy's reliance upon a single product.

Actually, with the drop in the price of oil, basic problems began to emerge in the country's economic infrastructure. Formerly, the corrupt Pahlavi regime attempted to conceal these problems over the years by injecting oil income into the country's economy on an unlimited scale. Unfortunately, after the victory of the Islamic revolution and due to various problems — and specifically because of the lack of various radical laws, something that prevented the regulation and implementation of an economic development program in the country — no effective steps were taken to end the one-product economic system.

The spectacular drop in the government's income could, at first glance, have had a negative economic impact on the country. For example, the drop in the price of oil could have led to the joblessness of more than 4 million workers. However, the government took certain steps and prevented this crisis.

In early 1365 [late 1985], the government approved a program known as the program for new economic conditions in order to confront the new economic conditions that had emerged in the country. This program consisted of the following five points: the procurement of the war's needs; the procurement of agricultural needs; the procurement of the minimum quantity of the people's means of livelihood, coupled with price controls; the

continuation of basic and infrastructural plans in industry; and a change in the pattern of consumption and an increase in non-oil exports.

The government approved this program at a time when, according to the prime minister, we had to confront the drop in the price of oil; the enemy's continued attacks on our economic installations; and the natural problems stemming from the war. Simultaneous with the implementation of the new economic program, the government also effectively economized in the country's executive branch. This branch reduced its expenditures by 620 billion rials in 1365 [the year ending 20 March 1987]

When studying the government's achievements in 1365 and in the first half of the current year, we should first examine the number of problems confronting the government and the natural and unnatural disasters before considering increased production and so on. Of course, we should not disregard some of the unjustifiable problems and shortcomings that may not be limited only to the government. The year 1365 was a successful year as far as non-oil exports were concerned; the prime minister called this the year of revolution in non-oil exports. A total of 646,000 tons of non-oil products amounting to $900 million were exported in 1365, which was 23 percent more in volume and 64 percent more in value compared to the previous year. Primary forecasts for non-oil exports during the current year project a figure of $1.4 billion.

In 1365, the government was also able to carry out the vast task of census-taking throughout the country. Last year, the government satisfactorily carried out the first phase of the new economic conditions program — the procurement of the war needs. The reason for this was the number of military operations in 1365 and the spectacular successes achieved during them.

In addition to the Iraqi regime's attacks on economic intallations, one of the government's important problems last year was the immense damage caused by the flood. Damage from the flood totalled 120 billion rials; cities, villages, and economic installations were damaged, and the government had to allocate new budgets to overcome these losses.

The government also confronted unexpected incidents. It allocated a considerable budget for constructing shelters [to be used during bombing raids]and was able to achieve successes in a short period.

As for price controls and product distribution, we experienced some shortcomings in 1365 and in early 1366. The emergence of temporary obstructions in distribution — stemming primarily from the drop in the government's foreign exchange income, from the problems of the country's economic system, and from problems such as the drop in the price of oil and in the strength of the dollar — coupled with the increase in the private sector's cash flow, loans from banks, and the structure of the budget, and so on, all led to a rise in the cost of goods and services from late 1365.

In addition to the above, foreign exchange earned from exports also added to inflation in the country. In 1365, the Majlis approved a paragraph that has come to be known as Paragraph 22 and entitled: "The Law on Exports and Imports." On the basis of this, importing goods paid for by using foreign exchange earned from exports and without transferring foreign exchange became exempt from the government's pricing system and supervision. Because of the drop in foreign exchange income and the obligation of production units to preserve the employment levels and to prevent a drop in supply — all of which helped to exacerbate the rise in prices — production units, both in the private and public sectors, attempted, under the protection of the above-mentioned law, to purchase raw materials using non-governmental foreign exchange in order to continue their production.

The approval and implementation of this law led to a spectacular rise in inflation due to the great difference in the rate of government and export foreign exchange rates. Although this bill was approved at a time when certain elements were taken into consideration, it nevertheless had a negative impact on inflation.

Therefore, inflation was the government's biggest problem in the current year's first months. The economic terrorists, by increasing their role as middlemen and by creating the artificial atmosphere of a black market, played an important role in increasing inflation.

Since inflation primarily pressures that class on fixed incomesand, moreover, the fact that the revolution's main burden lies on the shoulders of that strata, the government was compelled to take decisive steps. Paragraph 22 was abrogated in early 1366 and the government was granted the legal right to price and to supervise all products that are imported or manufactured with exported foreign exchange or without the transfer of foreign exchange.

The two important rights of pricing and of controlling the distribution of some products, as well as the right to punish profiteering granted by the imam of the ummah to the government, also opened the way for the government's serious struggle against inflation and profiteering. The government began a plan to combat inflation some time ago and sought help from the decree on state punishments in implementing this plan. With this plan, the government attempts to prevent inflation from rising and to reform the country's distribution system. It also seeks to lessen the pressure that inflation puts on the fixed-income class by increasing its imports of staple goods.

Primary results show that the government has been successful in implementing this plan. With the plan's implementation by the government, prices of some of the products coming under the plan have dropped in a short period from between 1-32.9 percent. The government is trying to price and to control the distribution of many staple goods and thus prevent profiteering by some economic terrorists. The government is also endeavoring to confront an important problem such as inflation. However, the government should continue radical steps to solve the problem of inflation.

Thus, during the past year, while carrying out spectacular steps, the government has faced many economic problems, each of which can motivate new and radical economic steps in coming years and bring the Islamic Republic of Iran closer to self-sufficiency and economic independence.

Baghdad's Claims 'Pretexts' to Resume Cities War

LD280806 Tehran IRNA In English 0759 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 28 IRNA — Iran today categorically denied an Iraqi claim Thursday that Iranian artillery had shelled residential areas in Al-Basrah and Qal'at Dizah.

A spokesman for the War Information Headquarters told IRNA that the Baghdad regime by raising these claims, was seeking pretexts to resume the war of cities and its violations of Iran's air space.

Combat Operations in War With Iraq Continue

Communique No 2,941

LD271542 Tehran IRNA in English 1521 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] Tehran, Aug. 27, IRNA — Iraqi troops suffered substantial losses in men and equipment throughout the fronts of the Iraqi-imposed war Wednesday when their positions were shelled by Iranian Muslim combatants, said a military communique here Thursday.

The 2941st joint staff communique added that a number of Iraqi soldiers were killed or wounded and one enemy missile launching pad, a communication center and several emplacements of various weapons were destroyed in the northwestern fronts by Iranian artillery fire yesterday.

Iranian Gendarmerie Forces responded to Iraqi artillery fire in parts of the southern fronts Wednesday, killing or wounding several enemy soldiers and setting afire 10 gun emplacements and two vehicles of theirs.

In Sumar, western fronts, Iranian artillery fire prevented Iraqi engineering units from digging trenches and canals or setting up barbed wire fences.

Iraqi motorized and armoured columns moving around Panjwin, Naft-e Shah and Sumar suffered considerable losses yesterday when shelled by Iranian combatants.

The communique further added that Iranian Navy gunboats intercepted and inspected an oil tanker in the Strait of Hormuz yesterday but allowed it to continue voyage after being satisfied it was not carrying cargo for Iraq.

Kurds Capture Bases in Dukan Area

LD271433 Tehran Domestic Service in Persian 1030 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Excerpts] Ramadan Headquarters, the center for irregular warfare of the Ground Forces of the Islamic Revolution Guards Corps, reports that the Patriotic Union of Iraqi Kurdistan peshmerga, in a series of guerrilla operations, captured the (Kendeh Shineh) and Susah military garrisons of the regime ruling Iraq, in the vicinity of Dukan, Al-Sulaymaniyah Province, and also several bases in the region. With the destruction of these bases they succeeded in killing more than 120 men of a battalion of the 4th Commando Brigade of the Iraqi I Army Corps. Six officers, including a major, a colonel and several NCO's, are among those killed. [passage omitted]

The report says that Iraqi hirelings, in an effort to recapture the bases, tried to infiltrate the region backed by tank and artillery fire, but were forced to retreat, suffering losses and casualties.

Montazeri Protege Hashemi Sentenced to Death

NC280602 (Clandestine) Radio Free Lebanon in Arabic 0445 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] The *Tehran Times* newspaper has reported that Mehdi Hashemi has been sentenced to death after being convicted of high treason and other crimes. Hashemi is the protege of Ayatollah Montazeri, the apparent successor to Iranian leader Khomeyni.

The paper cites Yugoslav sources as saying that Hashemi was arrested with 40 of his followers 9 months ago. They were accused of conspiracy, possessing arms and explosives, and forging state documents.

Violence Continues in Hyderabad, Karachi Areas

3 Killed in Hyderabad; Curfew Set

BK271532 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
1500 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] A press release issued by the Hyderabad District administration this evening said that some miscreants last night looted three shops and set two vehicles on fire. Two persons were shot dead in Latifabad.

More incidents of arson occurred in Hyderabad city this morning when 1 person was killed and 18 others injured. Two vehicles and one motorcycle were set on fire. The press release added that police rushed to the spot and tried to contain the situation. So far, 35 people have been arrested.

An indefinite curfew has been imposed in Hyderabad City and Latifabad areas from 1430 this afternoon.

Law encourcement agencies and district administration officials are intensively patrolling the area to check any further violence.

Press Note Issued; Curfew in Karachi

BK280250 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] It has been officially announced in Karachi that the general law and order situation was normal in District-East yesterday, although there were reports of sporadic attempts to damage some shops in Malir. Several arrests were made in the Shah Faisal colony.

A press note issued by the local administration noted that some miscreants indulged in riots in District-Central, setting fire to private and public property. The miscreants used firearms and threw Molotov cocktails and stones at law enforcment personnel. The police had to resort to baton charges and shooting. A 10-year old girl in the crowd was killed by a tear gas shell.

The local administration has announced that the curfew will be relaxed in the Shah Faisal colony area from 1300 to 1500 [0800-1000 GMT] today. The official announcement states that a curfew has been imposed until further orders in Malir and Liaqatabad police station areas in view of the danger of damage to public and private property and loss of life by miscreant groups.

28 Reported Dead; Troops Called Up

BK280340 Delhi Domestic Service in English
0240 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] In Pakistan, troops have been called out to control ethnic violence in Karachi and other parts. Violence flared up in several areas following clashes between Muhajirs and Pathans. The death toll has risen to 28. At least 100 shops, roadside hotels, and a score of vending carts were set on fire in Karachi.

Hyderabad was placed under curfew after six persons were reportedly killed in an exchange of fire between the rampaging gangs.

DAWN: Opposition Leader Urges Support for Tehran

BK271348 Karachi DAWN in English 24 Aug 87 p 1

[*Dawn* Lahore Bureau]

[Text] Aug 23 — Describing the American military presence in the Gulf as a virtual invasion of Iran, Mir Ghous Baksh Bizenjo, President, Pakistan National Party [PNP], on Sunday [23 August] urged the Government to declare its support for Iran and take up the matter with the United Nations to prevent the United States from advancing further.

Addressing a Press conference, he said Pakistan would be adversely affected by the Iran-America war and it should utilise all available means to avert it. He deplored that Pakistan had allowed the United States to use its Mauripur airport to monitor the movement of submarines in the Gulf.

If three million Afghan refugees — who, he alleged, were responsible for introducing the deadly heroin besides causing explosions and flooding the country with arms — could be provided shelter under the "Islamic spirit", why could Iran not be extended support under the same spirit and principle? He asked.

The PNP president warned that in case of American attack on Iran's military and oil installations the Iranians would start a guerrilla war and Pakistan would not remain safe from its dangerous consequences. The Gulf situation demanded urgent attention, even more than the Afghanistan problem, and the Government and all political parties should take measures to prevent Pakistan's involvement in the Gulf problem for which, he alleged, the United States was exerting its pressure.

Asked to explain how Pakistan was allowing the Americans to use Mauripur airport against Iran when even Iran had not levelled such an allegation and on the contrary had expressed its full confidence in Pakistan by requesting it to safeguard its interests in France with which it had severed its diplomatic relations, the PNP president said "I say so because I know it's happening."

Answering a question, Mr Bizenjo said though the MRD was opposed to the registration law, there was not a single resolution barring any registered party from becoming its member. There was also no decision that in case any MRD party was prohibited from taking part in the next elections other components of the alliance would boycott en bloc. Such a proposal had been made by Malik Qasim but it had not been adopted, he claimed.

Mr Bizenjo said the MRD did not expel the Tehrik-i Istiqlal even after it sought registration with the Election Commission. It was the Tehrik which left the alliance, he added.

He criticised Malik Qasim for having moved the election commission to cancel the registration of the Muslim League headed by Mr Mohammad Khan Junejo. This petition is like telling the

commission that the party which should have been registered was his and not of Mr Junejo's.

As regards the necessity of the coordination committee, Mr Bizenjo asked it had not been constituted then who would have maintained contact with the parties outside the MRD after the APC [All Party Conference].

PPI [*Pakistan Press International*] adds:

He urged the Government and the political parties in the country to break their silence over the "extremely significant" issue of American intervention in the Gulf.

He alleged that the US was blackmailing Iran with the help of Britain and France and over 40,000 commandoes of its special task force, set up for this purpose, had landed in the Gulf.

Although, he said in a sense the US has attacked Iran, it is quite possible that it will make a formal attack on some pretext in the near future.

Minister on Implications of U.S. Aid Suspension

BK271242 Karachi Domestic Service in English
1100 GMT 27 Aug 87

[Text] The federal minister for commerce, Dr Mahbubul Haq, has said immediate implication of the American aid suspension for 105 days will be negligible during the current fiscal year. He told a news conference in Islamabad today that about $5.7 billion foreign assistance was in the pipeline and it would be sufficient to meet Pakistan's requirements for the next 4 years. The present level of aid [words indistinct] at the rate of $1.3 billion annually was enough to smoothly carry out ongoing projects and to start new ones. The minister said the proposed U.S. aid was not programmed in the current federal budget.

Noorani Reiterates Stand on Atomic Program, DRA

BK280446 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0200 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Minister of state for foreign affairs, Zain Noorani, has said that Pakistan will not accept one-sided and biased controls over its peaceful atomic program, and that this will not be accepted as a condition of U.S. assistance. In an interview in New York yesterday he said: We are enriching uranium in very small quantities, meant only for peaceful purposes. He said Pakistan is ready to provide a solid assurance that its atomic program is peaceful and its objective is not to make atomic weapons. He said if India, which has detonated an atomic device, permits inspection of its atomic installations, then Pakistan is also ready for inspection of its atomic installations.

On the issue of Afghanistan, the minister of state said the process of UN-sponsored Geneva talks is almost complete except for determining a timeframe for the withdrawal of Soviet forces from Afghanistan. He said no date has yet been set for the next round of Geneva talks. Pakistan wants a (?careful) preparation for the next round [of Geneva talks] so that it may yield results.

Discusses Afghanistan With UN Official

BK280845 Karachi Domestic Service in Urdu
0600 GMT 28 Aug 87

[Text] Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Zain Noorani has met the UN secretary general's personal representative on Afghanistan, Diego Cordovez, in New York. According to a report, they exchanged views on Afghanistan and other matters.